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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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St. Ansgar ^{*La.*} Centennial
History

125



The Clausen Home and Parsonage

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*"It is only by respecting the past that we
can be worthy of the future."*

WINSTON CHURCHILL

1853 — 1953

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St. Ansgar, Iowa.

Centennial history, 1853-1953.

96 p. illus. 25 cm.

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Birdseye view of St. Ansgar, looking north and west. Note Highway 218 and Illinois Central railway running parallel at upper right. Upper left highway 103.

Dedicated To

The men and women who have gone before us, who with their hands, their hearts and their minds labored to build this community which we call home.

*"The pioneers dreamed as they clove a path
Through hardships we cannot guess;
They wrenched our land from a savage hand
And the clutch of the wilderness.*

*A thriving people—a fruitful land,
This was their dream and prayer;
You were their thought as they hewed and wrought!
You were their deepest care.*

*So strive and keep faith with the warrior bold
That bought you this priceless soil.
Yours is the gain of their brawn and brain.
Protect it with faithful toil."*

(Lines from "Song of Iowa," by Carleton Culmsee, son of Dr. L. A. Culmsee, and grandson of pioneer Christopher Hanson.)

THE COMING OF THE PRAIRIE SCHOONER AND ITS CARGO

If the Indian in the Cedar River Valley had been on the lookout for newcomers on June 17, 1853, he would have seen moving slowly across the prairies from the east a winding thread of gray, which as it came closer resolved itself into a line of covered wagons drawn by oxen, with a herd of cattle bringing up the rear. This long line of prairie schooners had as its cargo a people, who brought with them all their worldly goods with which to build new homes in this new land. Some of these people were the founders of St. Ansgar. This migration was no haphazard movement. It was the result of careful investigation and planning.

Years ago, a young man left Denmark to go to Norway, where he became a minister. He was zealous in his ministerial work and, after a few years spent among the Norwegians, he felt the call of America and started across the ocean for the new world. After weeks on boat, he finally reached New York. Once in America, this Danish minister, the Rev. Clausen, continued preaching the gospel, first to one group and then to another, slowly moving westward. At last, he reached Rock Prairie, Wisconsin where he remained several years, teaching and preaching, being ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1844 by L. E. Krause of Muskego, Wis. After much thought and prayer, the Rev. Clausen and a group of Norwegians in this part of Wisconsin decided to move westward to find a place where land suited to their needs and wishes could be secured.

In 1851, the Rev. Clausen left his little congregation to explore, with the hope that he might find a suitable place. He traveled over parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin but was not satisfied with the nature of the country so he returned and continued to preach during that winter. The next spring he and two scouts travelled over parts of Minnesota as far west as Albert Lea. The land was very wet and they felt it was not

desirable. However, they were not discouraged and decided to turn south. They came to a small stream which they named Deer Creek. They followed this stream to its entrance into the Cedar River and explored the woods along the river and the prairies to the east and to the west. They observed very carefully the nature of the country and felt they had reached the place for which they had been searching. Hastening back to Wisconsin, they told the good news.

The Rev. Clausen in "*The Immigrant*," the first Norwegian paper published in America, told about this land with plenty of woods to meet the needs of a large group of settlers, prairies for miles to the east and to the west, good building places, flowing water, rich soil and plenty of land open for settlement.

The people were delighted with the description. Early that fall, the Rev. Clausen with Levor Lindelein, G. Gilbertson,



Rev. Claus L. Clausen, Founder of St. Ansgar

Hans Halvorson Smesrud, Ole Hanson Haugrud and Mikkel Tollefson Rust returned to explore still farther and found it fully as attractive in the fall as it had been in the spring. To make certain of securing the land, they all, with the exception of G. Gilbertson, who did not intend to return, built log cabins. The Rev. Clausen's cabin was built in the southwestern part of the present town of St. Ansgar on what in later days was known as the Treichel place. Haugrud and Smesrud built theirs on the Deer Creek and Mikkel Tollefson Rust built his on what is known as the T. M. Tollefson place. They then returned to Wisconsin to prepare for the return trip.

One can imagine the excitement in that Norwegian community. Wagons must be made ready, oxen and stock secured, and the necessities for a life away from railroads and cities must be provided—food, clothing, dishes, furniture for the home, and innumerable things for the building of a farmstead.

The following May, this fleet of thirty prairie schooners, about seventy-five people, three horses, one carriage and one hundred fifty cattle started out. In so vast and trackless a wilderness, it was easy to take different routes and this company divided, although both were working toward the same goal, a new home in the Cedar River valley. They all had faith in their pastor, and they were willing to trust him in this new venture of finding homes. This was the fleet of prairie schooners which the Indian would have seen if his keen eye had been on the watch this June in 1853.

One can picture the hardships of this westward trip and the weariness of it. The goal was certain, westward to the sunset regions, over the prairies of Wisconsin, crossing the Mississippi on a ferry at McGregor, over the prairies of Iowa, through sloughs, across rivers, through woods, passing a Norwegian settlement at Calmar, delayed by breakdowns, by straying cattle, by storms until, between the 16th and 17th of June, 1853, these people reached the place destined to become the town of St. Ansgar.

And who made up this group of people—the Rev. Clausen and his family and brother and the following men and their families: Mikkel Tollefson Rust, who already had a cabin built; Hans Halvorson Smesrud and Ole Hanson Haugrud, who had built cabins the previous fall but now found them occupied and therefore took land nearer the Cedar; Jacob Asleson; Assor Knudson; Hans Rust; Eric Espedokken and Helek Rasmussen. Also, there were Halvor Thorson and son, Erick Thorson Saagebroten, Peter Gunderson, and Ole and Tollef Grovo. These all settled in the neighborhood of St. Ansgar. There were others who went west into Worth county, south into what is now Rock Township or north into Minnesota. Late in '53 Helek Benson, Thore Mork, Gubrand Myre (Gilbertson) Peter Goldberg, Christopher Hanson and Endre Olson (Dokken), with his wife and their oldest son, Ole E., came here.



Peter Gunderson



Ingeborg Rust



Mikkel and Growe Rust



Jacob Asleson



Ole O. Grove

The first settlers were so well satisfied with the land chosen for their new homes that they invited their old friends at Rock Prairie to come. In 1854 another line of prairie schooners brought another group of settlers, consisting of Knute Kittleson, Hans Knudson, John Helgeson, Erick Stovern, Endre Olson, Helek Benson, Narve Golberg and Knute Tollefson, each with his family. Assor Groth, Peter Golberg, G. Blakkestad, Christopher Hanson, Knute Rauk, C. G. Classen, Nels Nelson, and perhaps others were also in this group.

These were the people who first came to the valley of the Cedar River to make homes in what is now St. Ansgar. These are the pioneers, courageous, industrious, God-fearing men and women who have left the impression on the community they founded.

E. L.

OUR NAME

More than eleven hundred years ago, there was born in Amiens, France, a boy, who during his lifetime and for years afterwards was to exert a great influence, not only in France, but also in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. He has influenced greatly our own community. You ask how?

This lad became a Christian, a monk, a bishop, and was sainted by the Catholic church. He did much to bring the Scandinavian countries into the Christian fold. His influence has inspired many to become followers of Christ. Among these was C. J. Clausen.

The Rev. Clausen worked as a minister in Denmark and in Norway, and later came to America, where, through his missionary labors, there came to be a settlement at St. Ansgar founded on the Christian ideal.

To honor the man whose influence had much to do in the shaping of his own life, the Rev. Clausen gave to this town the name "St. Ansgar," (meaning "God's Spear.")

So, today we are honoring not only the Rev. Clausen and his followers, but also St. Ansgar, who provided the name for our community—the only town so named in this entire United States and even in the entire world.

E. L.



BUILDERS OF SAINT ANSGAR

ON THIS ENDURING BRONZE TABLET
ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF THOSE
WHO HELPED IN THE BUILDING OF
THE COMMUNITY AND WHOSE LIVES
REFLECT THE COURAGE AND VISION
AND THE DETERMINATION OF OUR
HONORED PIONEERS

REV. CLAUS LAURITS CLAUSEN

JACOB ASLESON
HELLEK BENSON
G. BLAKKESTAD
C. G. CLASSEN
ERICK ESPEDOKKEN
NARVE GOLBERG
PETER GOLBERG
ASSOR GROTH
OLE GROVO
TOLLEF GROVO
FEDER GUNDERSON
CHRISTOPHER HANSEN
OLE HAUGERUD
JOHN HELGESON

KNUT KITTLESON
ASSOR KNUTSON
HANS KNUTSON
NELS NELSON
ENDRE OLSEN
HELLEK RASMUSSEN
KNUT RANK
HANS RUST
MIKKEL TOLLEYSON
HANS HALVORSON
ERICK THORSON
HALVOR THORSON
ERICK STOVERN
KNUT TOLLEFSON

DEDICATED THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR OF
NINETEEN-FIFTY-THREE IN MEMORY OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE CLAUSEN COLONY
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF
THEIR HISTORIC SERVICE



Tollef O. Grove



Mrs. Claus Clausen

Bronze plaque at left, presented by Mary Benson to the town of St. Ansgar, giving a complete list of the Pioneers of 1853 and 1854.



Assor (Assorson) Knutson



Eric Thorson



Hans Rust

CHILDREN OF FIRST PIONEERS



T. M. Tollefson



Mrs. Kirsti Asleson Groth



Mrs. Swen Strand



Colbjorn Hanson Rust



Mrs. Peter Benson



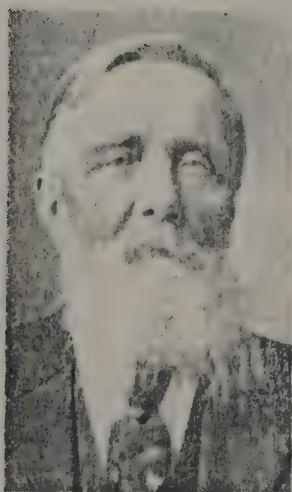
Liv Rust Tollefson



Mrs. Kjersti Jacobs Erickson



Kari H. Rust



Andrew Halvorson



Mrs. Bergetha H. Olson



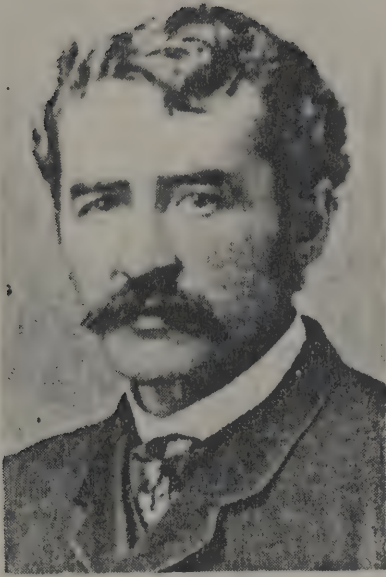
Carl W. Clausen



Peter Golberg



Ole Halvorson



Ole E. Olson



Mrs. Ingeborg H. Iverson



Martin Clausen



Knud H. Thorson

DESCENDANTS

(As far as the committee knows, only the names of those descendants are included who have set up their own homes in this community.)

As proof that the Rev. Clausen and his followers chose wisely in locating their new homes here, we have but to note the number of their descendants who consider the place chosen the most desirable location for their own homes today. Many are living on the land secured by their ancestors one hundred years ago.

We have compiled a list of these St. Ansgarites and the original settler each represents. It is an interesting list in which we take pride:

Rev. C. L. Clausen

Mikkel Tollefson Rust

Clifford Tollefson, Luther Tollefson, Mrs. George Halvorson, Mrs. Ted Carlson, Mrs. Darold Bless, Mrs. Howard Bless, Mrs. Le-land Larson.

Hans Smesrud Halvorson

Mrs. George Johnson, George Halvorson Mrs., Maria Dahl, Mrs. Darrel Cowell, Mrs. Carl Dahl, Clarence Halvorson, Alton Halvorson, Gerald L. Halvorson, Clara Halvorson, Martin Halvorson, Irvin Halvorson, Elmer Halvorson, Sehner Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, Mrs. Lloyd Kroneman, Avery Halvorson.

Jacob Asleson

Anton Groth, Mrs. I. Wahl, Nellie Tollefson, William Groth, Clara Groth, Alma Groth, Luther Tollefson, Kathryn Groth, Gaylord Groth, Monrad Houg, Mrs. Clifford Warrington.

Assor Knudson Assorson

Alfred Assorson.

Hans (Rust) Hanson

Mrs. Blanche Hanson, Henry Hanson, Halvor Hanson, Mrs. Hans Borsheim.

Halvor Thorson

Clara Thorson, Blanche Thorson, Henry Thorson, Floyd Kittleson, Mrs. Dale Johnson, Galen Kittleson.

Eric Thorson (Sagabraaten)

Clifford Thorson, Mrs. Wilmer Feldt, Mrs. Harvey Kroneman, Mrs. Robert Rustad, Leon Thorson, Annis Thorson, Mrs. O. W. Tesch, Eugene Thorson, Donald Thorson, Mrs. Dean Hansen, Mrs. Virgil Horgen, Harold Thorson.

Tollef Grove

Mrs. George Brenna, G. Orlando Brenna.

Ole Hanson (Haugerud)

Caroline Erickson, Elvina Erickson.

JUST HOME FOLKS

America has been called the Melting Pot and St. Ansgar has been truly American in that it has become the home of people from many nations. While the Norwegians were the original settlers, it was not long before the people from other nationalities arrived, bringing with them many worthwhile customs from their home land. The Irish, the English, the Scotch, the Dane, the Bohemian, the Swede, all helped in the upbuilding of St. Ansgar.

In 1855, the Owens, F. Tucker, James Patterson and family and Jonathan Allen came and entered actively into the life of the new community. Later, such names as Sweet, Martin, Clyde, Rhames, Rossiter, Hume, Sherman, Thurston, Faville, Rowland, Brown, Burroughs, McCarthy, Dermody, and Wardell appeared on the pioneer roll. Many who came later were pioneers in every sense of the word, doing their part in the building of this new settlement.

East of St. Ansgar, we find a Bohemian settlement under the leadership of J. F. Peshak. These people came about 1868 and settled on the prairie east of town. They engaged in farming and today some of our most progressive farmers are to be found in this section—people who are thrifty and industrious. This group of settlers included the Maderas, the Zemaneks, the Spechts, Sedlaceks, Cherneys and Krulishes.

Another group of settlers important in the development of the St. Ansgar community was the Germans. This group, like the Norwegians, migrated from Wisconsin. In the early summer of 1866, the Lubiens brothers and families started out from Leeds, Wisconsin; about the same time, C. C. Miller and R. Helfritz came with their families from Columbus, Wisconsin arriving in Newburg in July of 1866. Here Mr. Miller engaged in the very important wagon making business. The Lubiens and Helfritz families engaged in the mercantile business. Later, when the railroad was built to St. Ansgar, all of these families moved to St. Ansgar and became a vital part of the town. All of them opened stores.

The Swedes came at a later date and included the Juline, Anderson, Medin and Lovestrum families.

The Danes, including the Lund, Nissen, Hansen, Nelson, and Fedson families, arrived still later.

The descendants of these early settlers make up a large part of our present population. Few of these names have disappeared.

The pioneer life was difficult. Log houses were chinked with mud or clay, which, as it dried, dropped out causing the housewife extra work and giving more fresh air than was needed. The floors were made of slabs or puncheons with smooth side, if such they had, up. The roofs were made of poles covered with clapboards and were not always waterproof. The heating was done by means of a fireplace and wood. The fireplace was also used for cooking. It was made of logs and lined with stones. Windows were few and the door, (there was usually but one in each cabin,) had a latch string. Many of these cabins consisted of but one room with a loft used as a sleeping apartment and as a store room.

Cooking utensils and furniture were scarce. Much of the furniture was very simple and home-made. For this reason, cabinet making was an important early industry. Dishes and cutlery were not numerous and, if once broken or lost, these were not easily replaced. The food was simple—corn bread and vegetables raised, wild berries, plums, crabapples, game-fish and 'lute fisk og lefse'. Much of the bread was made from cornmeal, sometimes raised and sometimes flat. Milk and mush was a favorite evening dish.

Clothing was treated with great respect. The materials were much more substantial than those of today—homespun cloth and homemade clothes. Later, calico was to be had for 8 to 13 cents a yard and sheeting for 4 to 6 cents a yard.

Most of the lighting in the early homes was done by candles. Many a pioneer child's work was the putting of candle wicking into the candle mould. On the cold winter nights, the melted tallow was poured into the mould. The next morning,

twelve glossy, cream-white candles were lifted out. Kerosene was expensive, being sold for a number of years at 75 cents a gallon. Canning was not done in the early days. Fresh fruit, vegetables and meat could be enjoyed only in season. Smoke houses were later built for curing meat. Meal getting and meal serving were not very complicated.

At first, the water supply question was very important. Many of the early settlers took up land on which there were springs from which they could get water the year around, both for the house and for the stock. Three of these springs, which still furnish water for the owners, are the Burroughs spring east of St. Ansgar, the Gilbertson spring south of town and the Dodge or Utopia spring northwest of town.

The social life of the pioneer was not strenuous. Neighboring, almost a lost art in these days of hurry, was in great favor. Many times, business and pleasure were combined. Bees were very popular—barn raising bees, logging bees, husking bees, quilting bees. In winter, dancing was indulged in by many with old-time fiddlers serving diligently with much stamping of the feet for square dances, polkas, waltzes, schottisches and cotillions. Singing schools and spelling matches were very popular and the school exhibition drew large crowds. These were usually held in the winter.

Life was indeed a great adventure in the "good old days," but it had its troubles, as well. The early settlers had their share of sickness. At first, these settlers must themselves care for the sick. Many of the women were skillful in doing this and always seemed ready to give a helping hand. The St. Ansgar community was fortunate in having a doctor locate here at an early date. Dr. Parks was the first doctor. Then Dr. Rogers came. He remained but two years. Dr. Bundy arrived in 1865 and was the doctor of the community for many years. Even after he moved to Osage in 1898 he was still called to care for the St. Ansgar sick. Nelson, Wiggins, Culmsee, Lott, Culbertson, Johnson and Osborne have served the community at different



J. F. Peshak



Dr. A. D. Bundy



Isaac Patterson



T. H. Hume, Sr.



The Chris Thompson residence which stood where the present First Lutheran parsonage now stands



The residence and office of Dr. A. D. Bundy which stood where the Vandermyde residence is now located.



Former residence of the Rev. Johan Olsson, also Rev. Clausen. Part of present structure was built by Rev. Clausen.

times. At present, doctors Westernberger, Owen and Irwin are serving St. Ansgar as physicians. Dr. Westernberger has served the St. Ansgar community as physician for 56 years, since 1897.

The change in living conditions during these last one hundred years has been very great. Today, homes are fine buildings with rooms for all the needs of the family comfort. Heated by furnaces or stoves, supplied with coal, wood, oil and even electricity. Running water is supplied to the kitchen, bath and laundry. Electricity has replaced the candles and kerosene lamps of early days. The farmer has his mail delivered every day. One may visit with friends miles away over the telephone. Food supplies ready to be put on the table, fresh fruit and meat may be purchased at the many food stores. Almost every housewife has her store of home-canned vegetables, fruit and meat in her cooler or in a deep freeze locker. A world of entertainment may be secured by turning the switch on the radio or TV. Church services may be listened to in your home if poor health or weather prevent attendance at the local church. Books, magazines and daily newspapers are to be found in almost every home. The people of today require as necessities the things which the people of yesterday thought of as unattainable luxuries. E.L.

INDIANS

Indian tribes most closely connected with our local history are the Winnebagoes, Sacs and Foxes. The Sacs and Fox at one time inhabited practically all of Iowa.

Mitchell county was frequently visited by roving bands of Winnebagoes, generally in groups of 50 or 100. They were not unfriendly, but were given to petty thievery, much to the annoyance of the settlers. It was not difficult to recover stolen goods, because the Indians quite readily relinquished them when apprehended.

The Winnebagoes and the Sioux were deadly enemies. In 1862 the former were moved to Dakota. That was the year of the big Indian scare in St. Ansgar. In the fall

of 1862, various conflicting reports reached our settlement concerning the murderous Sioux in Minnesota, who had made a threat to destroy all of the Whites west of the Mississippi river.

Diaries of some of our pioneers tell in graphic language of these exciting times. A line of prairie schooners encamped on the Burroughs farm brought word that the Indians were to reach Albert Lea. Fear of their coming to these parts caused many to flee toward McGregor. Word soon came, however, that the Indians were far away, and the fugitives returned here to safety and contentment.

THE CEDAR RIVER

*On goes the river
And out past the mill,
Away down the valley,
Away down the hill.*

Cedar River is inseparably connected with the life of the people of St. Ansgar. It has been the means of their securing many pleasures—swimming, boating, fishing and skating. It has helped the people in their struggle for a livelihood. It furnished water for their stock before there were wells. Dams were built and mills were erected to which the farmers brought their wheat to be made into flour, their corn to be made into cornmeal, and different grains to be made into ground feed for the farmers' stock. The Cedar River went to work.

Now, in 1953 there is but one mill on the St. Ansgar Cedar River. It is operated by Sherwin Kleinwort. No flour comes forth from the rollers of this mill, but ground feed which is needed for the farmers' stock. Portable mills take care of a great deal of feed grinding work, but the St. Ansgar Mill is still on the job the year 'round.

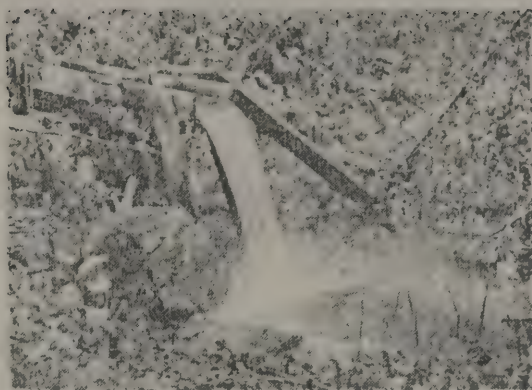
The Newburg mill has disappeared. In its stead, we find a power plant, which uses the river to create power for lighting, heating and for running machinery.

One crop which the Cedar produces is no longer harvested. Years ago, on the cold winter days, one might see horses drawing sleds moving to the river. Soon



Old Newburg bridge—looking east—destroyed by cyclone of 1894.

the buzz of saws was heard. The horses returned drawing the sleds loaded with great blocks of ice to the ice house in St. Ansgar. These blocks of ice were buried in saw dust to prevent their melting. On warm summer days these were taken to the various homes by the "Ice Man". They were put into ice boxes to keep foods from spoiling or were used to make homemade ice cream. This same work is done today by electricity.



**A favorite camping place on the Cedar river.
Present Boy Scout Camp**

Some sorrow has come to St. Ansgar because of the Cedar. Lives have been lost and property has been damaged on account of floods. However, the Cedar is still considered a friend to the community and provides unexcelled natural beauty as well as good fishing and hunting.



Deer Creek Bridge



**Old Suspension bridge south of St. Ansgar, replaced by modern concrete
1952**

ORGANIZATION OF TOWN

The Town Site

The land upon which St. Ansgar rests was first claimed by the Rev. Clausen in 1853. In 1854, he had the town platted by government surveyors O. Brunius and Jongsted, dividing 120 acres into lots and blocks. The Rev. Clausen wisely provided for wide streets and reserved three areas as public grounds.

The township was organized in the summer of 1855. It then embraced almost all of the northwest part of the county.

Among those who were chosen at the first election to fill township offices were the following: trustees—Michael Tollefson, Jacob Aslesen and C. G. Classen; justice of the peace—the Rev. C. L. Clausen; road supervisor—Knut Tollefson.

In the spring of 1876, St. Ansgar was incorporated as a town. The first election was held in March of that year. The first officers were as follows: mayor, Henry Lubiens; recorder, S. R. Moody; trustees, P. O. Asperheim, Dr. A. D. Bundy, T. W. Owen, Lars Moe, and D. F. McCarthy; marshal, L. Cole; treasurer, P. A. Hjorth; and street commissioner, W. Caswell.

The first meeting of the council was held in March, 1876.

First House in St. Ansgar

The first actual settler on the town site, C. J. Classen, (often confused with Clausen.) came in the spring of 1854 and built the "first house in town." It stood in the block south of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Classen used it for a store and postoffice. He was the first merchant to handle hardware. After his death in 1861, the property passed into the hands of Mr. Rozine, who sold it in 1866 to T. H. Hume, Sr. The postoffice meanwhile was moved into a dwelling across the street, where there was also a grocery store.

The Classen house was for many years the home of the Sr. Hume family. It stood until 1938 when it was sold to Jens Peterson and was torn down. 1948

St. Ansgar Mayors

April 1, 1876, to Present Time

	Year Elected
Henry Lubiens	1876
Chas. F. Goddard.....	1877
Henry Lubiens.....	1878
C. A. Woodward.....	1879
Dr. A. D. Bundy	1881
H. H. McGahn.....	1882



House built by C. J. Classen. First house on the town site



Henry Lubiens first mayor of St. Ansgar—early merchant

Henry Lubiens.....	1883
Martin Moe.....	1887
Henry Lubiens.....	1888
Dr. A. D. Bundy.....	1893
O. O. Donhowe.....	1895
A. N. Lund.....	1896
C. L. Colbertson.....	1897
Martin Moe.....	1898
T. H. Hume.....	1900
M. K. Culver.....	1902
Martin Moe.....	1904
C. T. Tollefson.....	1905
G. C. Mather (resigned).....	1910
M. R. Odegaard.....	1910
H. A. Rosel.....	1912
Martin Klindt.....	1914
H. A. Rosel.....	1915
R. C. Lubiens.....	1918
T. H. Hume.....	1920
T. A. Groth.....	1922
Martin Moe.....	1924
H. A. Rosel.....	1927
Ed Tessman.....	1928
Henry Intorf (resigned).....	1932
Ed Tessman.....	1932-33
John Bernstein.....	1934
Walter Moe.....	1941
Dr. W. L. Dockstader.....	1944
Herman Smesrud.....	1946
Walter Moe.....	1948

L. R. Falk.....	1950
W. P. Dieterich.....	1952

Photographers

The first resident photographer was J. R. Halvorson, who was here in the '70s. His gallery stood about where Waldo Wold now lives. In the '80s, A. J. Clausen's photograph gallery was in the building now occupied by Josephine Gilbertson. All the old stereoptican views we know came from this studio. In 1886 the Rossiters moved to town and built a house—now the Wold home—with living rooms downstairs and a photograph gallery upstairs. The proprietors were the Rossiter sisters, Elizabeth and Matilda. They served the public for more than forty years.

From these studios have come almost all of the pictures in this book.

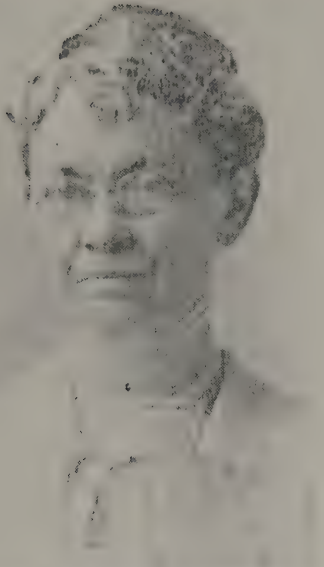


**J. R. Halvorson
First resident photographer**

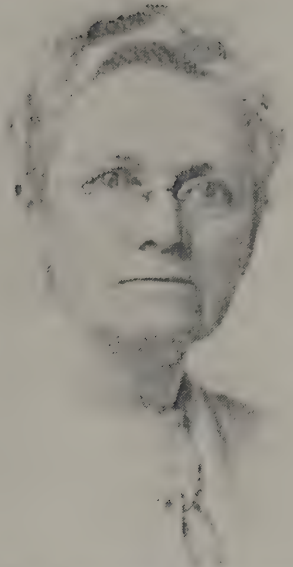
CAN YOU REMEMBER—

When one could climb up a flight of stairs and sit for a photograph that was a real work of art, made by Lizzie and Tillie M. Rossiter? It was no snap shot procedure, but head clamps, adjusted chairs, sky lights adjusted, black head cloth of the photographer and poses after poses tried

E.L.



Elizabeth Rossiter, Photographer



Matilda Rossiter, Photographer

PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS
These sisters used as their business name—"L. M. and T. E. Rossiter"

CHURCHES

The First Lutheran Church

The Scandinavian pioneers who settled in this locality were a religious people. The first Sunday they were here, the last Sunday in June, 1853, public worship was held in a log house.

On December 4 of the same year, Rev. Clausen organized the congregation. It was incorporated in 1863, the following members acting on behalf of the congregation: Gulbrand Gulbrandson, Mikkell Tollefson, Peder A. Golberg, J. Helgeson, A. Knutson, and Endre Olson (Dokken), who had emigrated to America and to Muskego, Wisc. in 1848 and thence with the Clausen Colony late in 1853 with his wife and their oldest son, Ole E.

In 1856 the "old stone school house" was built, where for a number of years public worship was held. The German congregation also used it for a time.

The present stone church was built in 1864. Into it went countless hours of labor, donated by members of the congregation. They quarried and hauled their own stone, slaked their lime, felled, hewed and hauled their own timbers. The chief masons were

the Rauk Bros., and the Sveidengard Bros. The carpenters were Mikkell Tollefson and Ole Olson Aarvelti. The church was completed in 1868, and dedication services were held Sept. 27, of that year.

Many improvements have been made since that time. In 1898 the interior was redecorated, old pews were replaced by fine oak ones, and the beautiful statue of Thorwaldsen's Christ was installed.

In 1923 the church observed its seventieth anniversary with appropriate services. Speaker of the day was the Rev. L. A. Vigness, executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education. In an English sermon, he based his message on Psalm 48:9-14.

The first pipe organ was purchased in the fall of 1882 from the Osage Baptists. The bellows had to be pumped by hand. It was in use until 1934, when the present organ was installed.

The front addition was built in 1941.

In December, 1946, the Lewis Swenson Memorial chimes were dedicated. These fine Deagan chimes were given to the church by the late Mr. and Mrs. Swenson.

In 1952 the Tower chimes—a gift from



View of the original First Lutheran Church. Built in 1864

Ole Borsheim—were installed.

First Lutheran is unique in that but four ministers have served the congregation in the 100 years of its existence, namely, the founder, C. L. Clausen, Rev. Johan Olsen, Rev. M. E. Waldeland, and the present pastor, Rev. O. A. Langehough.

The membership in this centennial year is 648.

The first confirmation service was held in the open on April 15, 1855.

The first baptisms were those of Anna

Oline Lee, daughter of Ole A. Lee, and Edward E. Clausen, son of Rev. Clausen.

The first marriage was that of Torgrim Larson and Kari Carlson, June 28, 1854.

First Lutheran has a Sunday school numbering 127 members; a Ladies Aid with a membership of 142; and a Luther League of 25 members.

There are nine circles. Much of the missionary work is done through these circles.

Parochial school is held for two weeks, following the regular public school year.

St. Ansgar Methodist Church

Methodism was introduced into Mitchell county by S. W. Ingham, when the Upper Cedar Mission was formed, including all settlements on the Cedar River above Waverly. The settlements north of Bradford formed the Bradford Mission, with W. P. Holbrook in charge. In May, 1856, the Upper Iowa Conference was formed. In the same year a small class was formed in St. Ansgar, with J. Allen as leader.

Until 1878, there were various changes made in the circuit of which St. Ansgar formed a part. Services were held in St. Ansgar in the following named places: the homes of Mr. J. Allen, Mr. Samuel Sweet, and others whose names we do not know and also in the old stone school house and in the Keystone Hotel.

At Newburg, services were held in McKinley's Hotel, Snyder's store, and finally in the school building. Services were quite frequently held at both Newburg



The old Methodist church. Built in 1878

and St. Ansgar.

In 1878, the first Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Ansgar was built, lots for the purpose being donated by Isaac Patterson. The following named persons were the first trustees: T. W. Thurston, Isaac Patterson, Mr. McCaffrey, Theo. Owen and Aaron Snyder.

During this year, St. Ansgar and Mitchell were not connected, but re-united again in 1880 and continued until 1892.

The first public affair in the church was an oyster supper held on Wednesday evening, Nov. 13, 1878,—net proceeds, \$30.

On Monday evening, December 2, the trustees met and accepted the church from the building committee.

In 1891, a parsonage was built, credit for which is due the ladies of the church who raised all but \$400 of the cost.

These properties served the congregation until 1907, when, during the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Galbreth, the present church building was erected, the cornerstone of which was laid August 19, 1907. Dedication services were held December 16 to 20, three former pastors being present: Rev. C. E. Smith, Rev. E. G. Hunt and Rev. Nathaniel Pye. Others appearing on the program were Dr. William Shanklin, president of Upper Iowa University, Dr. H. W. Troy and Rev. Frank P. Shaffer.

In 1931, the church was redecorated



First Lutheran Church as it is today



Present Methodist Church. Built in 1907

and rededicated, the decorating being done by Adolf Mueller.

In the late '40's, plans for a new parsonage were forwarded, with the result that we now have a fine dwelling, modern in every way. It was built during the pastorate of Rev. E. E. Pencook, and dedicated May 1, 1949. During the building, the pastor lived in the Ernest Hanson house.

On April 16, 1953, a fine Hammond electric church organ was installed. Dedication of the organ will be in the near future.

The present pastor is the Rev. Rollin Oswald.

The present membership is 329, representing 125 families.

There is a Sunday school enrollment of 107 members, with a superintendent, an assistant superintendent and nine teachers. The Womans' Society of Christian Service was formed a number of years ago, by combining the Ladies' Aid Society and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. It now numbers 78 active members.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship today corresponds to the Epworth League of years past. It has a membership of 25.

The Methodist Men, organized in 1950, has 25 members.

Vacation Bible school is held each year, following the close of the regular public school year.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

The beginnings of Immanuel's history can be traced to a small handful of pioneer families who settled here in the early seventies of the past century. They had been born in Europe, and while there, had acquired their Lutheran background. They emigrated first to Wisconsin, thence to St. Ansgar and vicinity.

Being of a religious mind, and without a spiritual leader, these pioneers called upon German Lutheran field missionaries to administer to their needs. Rev. Mertens and Rev. Doescher responded at intervals, preaching in the homes of the people, or in the "old stone schoolhouse." There were about eight families who attended these services.

The heads of these families were Leonard Rosel, C. L. Tessman, August Nienow, Fred Hartwig, Henry Kuehl, Carl Mueller, Christian Zerck and George Rosel.

In the summer of 1874, this group organized and extended a call to the Rev. E. Wiegner, who accepted and was installed in July of that year.

In October, 1874, a fair-sized dwelling and two lots were purchased from S. R. McKinley. This purchase included a part of the dwelling now occupied by August Janzow. The first floor was fitted up for



Old Baptist church purchased by Immanuel Lutherans in 1882.

Immanuel Lutheran church ,same as above, remodeled. Parsonage at the right.



Present Immanuel Lutheran church built in 1924

use as a school and as a place of worship. The Rev. Wiegner and family lived in the second story.

The congregation was incorporated in 1880.

In 1882 a building which had been erected for a Baptist congregation, but which was not in use, was purchased from John Rhames, and re-dedicated as a Lutheran church the twenty-third Sunday after Trinity.

In 1876, P. H. Benson and Herman Treichel each donated a half acre of land for cemetery purposes.

In 1884, the parochial school building was erected, and served until 1924, when it was sold. It now houses a grocery store in the east part of town.

The Rev. Wiegner was followed by pastors E. Hantel, J. Drexler, W. Janzow, Paul Brammer, T. J. Eickelberg and the present pastor, the Rev. H. C. Wolters. Rev. Brammer had a record of almost 40 years of service to this church. He served until ill health compelled him to resign Jan. 1, 1946.

It was during Rev. Brammer's pastorate that the beautiful present church edifice was built, 1924. The parsonage was enlarged and improved and various organizations were brought into being.

In 1948 a public address system was donated to the church, a motion picture projector was purchased for visual instruction, and a tape recorder was purchased to bring special church services to the shut-ins and to the aged.

The present pastor, H. C. Wolters, was installed in November, 1949.

As of Jan. 1, 1953, Immanuel congregation numbers 575 souls and 418 communicant members. In her membership, she still numbers one member of the first class of confirmants in 1876—Mrs. Augusta Krueger, now 90 years old.

The first baptism was that of Albert Julius Otto Brand, August 26, 1874, by Pastor Wiegner.

At the present time, Immanuel has a Sunday school enrollment of 115 pupils, with twelve teachers and a superintendent. A religious summer school of three weeks

duration is held shortly after the regular school year.

The present Ladies' Aid Society was organized March 23, 1917, and now has a membership of 68. The Walther League has 28 members. There are five circles.

Mrs. Doris Ruechel has been serving the congregation as organist and choir director for the past six years.

The first confirmation was April 4, 1875.

The first marriage performed in this church was that of Karl Schuett and Marie Wilke, March 21, 1875.

The first funeral was that of the mother of Mrs. Lubiens, August 7, 1874. —L. R.

St. Ansgar Catholic Church

The St. Ansgar Catholic church building was built during the summer of 1951, under the direction of the present pastor, Rev. Thomas J. Conroy, and a selected committee. A great deal of work was done by the local people of the area.

The consecration of the altar stone took place September 8, 1951, with Fr. Conroy presiding, assisted by Fr. Paul McDonald and Richard Kuhn. Sister Mary Damian furnished the music.

The first Mass to be offered in the newly founded Mission of Sacred Heart Parish was offered by Father Conroy September 9. William Kleckner and Victor Viehlaeh served as altar boys. Music was provided by the male choir of Meyer under the direction of Mr. Al May. Afterwards, a Parish dinner was served in Sacred Heart church in Osage.

His Excellency Archbishop Binz from Dubuque blessed and consecrated the new edifice Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. Archbishop Binz congratulated the pastor and people on their fine work and urged them to carry on the great work of St. Ansgar who is known in history as the "Apostle of the North."

Anshar or Ansgarius was born in Picardy, Sept. 8, 865. He became a Benedictine of Corbie and carried the Faith to the King of Sweden who was greatly impressed, and the first Catholic church of Sweden was soon built. Anshar later became Bishop of Hamburg and was soon appointed



St. Ansgar Catholic Church. Built in 1951

legate of the Pope to the Northern nations. He made visits to Denmark and built a church at Schleswig. King Olaf consented to his preaching and even King Eric's enmity changed into friendship. In Germany, Ansehar is better known as St. Scharies.

St. Ansgar Catholic church will continue to remain a Mission attended by the Priests of Sacred Heart, Osage, until the Archbishop decides to make further provision.

One funeral has been held from the church so far: Mrs. Christine Haas, on Sept. 25, 1951.

There has also been one wedding, that of George Lieverou and Dorothy Adams, who joined hands on the morning of Oct. 24, 1952.

The first Mission Exercises were given by Fr. Patrick McElliott in February of 1952.

Fourteen Baptisms are recorded in the St. Ansgar Registry, the first child being the son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Kleckner, baptized Mark Maurice on Sept. 16, 1951.

Three children made their First Holy Communion May 25, 1952, after which a parish breakfast was served at the Lloyd Fox home.

The Ladies of the parish organized the

St. Ansgar Rosary Society and chose Mrs. Ernest Kleckner as its first president.

The men of the parish organized into the Holy Name Society and elected Virgil Welp from Carpenter as president.

At the present time, there are over fifty families attending services regularly at St. Ansgar.

V. S.

SCHOOLS

Public Schools

The first school in Mitchell county was the private school taught by the Rev. Clausen at St. Ansgar in August, 1853. It was for religious instruction only.

The educational problem was simple. A home served as a school house; the pastor or some other pioneer served as teacher. Miss Amelia Hirsch was the first hired teacher, and in 1853 the school was held in a building on what, until recently, was the Benson farm.

The first school of the regular common school type was a log building erected by citizens of the village for school and church and other purposes. It was situated on main street just west of the present Hugh Carr residence, formerly owned by R. C. Lu-

biens. In 1855, the school was taught by Miss Burt, for \$16 per month.

In 1858, this school was replaced by the stone school house erected on the corner where the Borsheim home now stands. School attendance grew rapidly. The enrollment at one time was more than a hundred, with one teacher. E. L. Sawyer was the teacher when the picture was taken in 1870.

As population increased, a new building

The St. Ansgar Academy

(Also called the Seminary)

The St. Ansgar Academy was organized in 1877 as the St. Ansgar High School, with H. S. Houg in charge. The school was held upstairs in a building which stood in the location now occupied by the Lloyd Koch residence.

When the four-room public school was built about the same time, Mr. Houg avail-



The old stone school house built in 1858

became a necessity, and in 1877 the wooden structure which preceded the present school building was built. It had four rooms. It was twice enlarged. An Enterprise of 1878 names three departments in the school, and states that Prof. Houg would conduct a select high school in the same building, where common branches and languages would be taught.

The present fine grade and high school building was erected in 1928. Today, in 1953, the facilities are again inadequate, and again we must plan for an increased school attendance. We do not doubt that needs will be met in the characteristic St. Ansgar way.



Four room school, built in 1877. Halls and stairways in front part



The St. Ansgar Academy.
Dedicated October 10, 1882

Seminary Hall — the “old Dorm”



ed himself of the opportunity to occupy room in the new building. He advertised “a select High school, offering common branches and languages.”

The church was the pivot upon which the early community life turned, so it was but natural that the church officers should plan for higher education than that afforded by the public school. Plans were forwarded for the erection of a brick building, and by March, 1882, it was an accomplished reality. Dedication services were held Oct. 10, 1882.

Until 1888, the school was known as the “St. Ansgar High School.” Enterprise files (Enterprise 2-29-'88) state that the name was then changed to the “St. Ansgar Acad-

emy.” It was familiarly called the Seminary.

That the work here was of a high standard is indicated by the fact that in 1894, credits from here were accepted by the University of Minnesota without examination.

The school was a tremendous influence—far reaching not only in paths of book-learning, but in the land of romance as well. Many homes of today are the results of romances which started at the “Old Sem.”

On June 8, 1910, the Academy observed its 50th and last Commencement. That fall it failed to open. Today it lives only in the memories of students who attended there.

The building is now used as a Parish House for the First Lutheran Church.

Seminary Hall

In 1891 this dormitory was built on the southeast corner of the block, and was the home of the principal and a rooming-house for students. After the academy closed, the place was rented to various parties. Field laborers who came from away occupied it for some time. In 1936, the property was sold to Art Dietrich and Lawrence Rosenberg, who tore down the building and used it to build their present homes.

The School Today

The educational program of the community is a growing one. It is based upon the child's needs to cope with a rapidly changing society and world.

The philosophy behind the teaching in the school is to help the child become an adult citizen with the ability to maintain an open mind, to use the logical approach to problems, to develop a problem solving attitude, to always be conscious and considerate of other people, to be able to make fine distinctions between the rights and wrongs in all things in life.

Today the school, at the secondary level, offers the opportunity to search and inquire into the areas of Science, Literature,



H. S. Houg
Founder of St. Ansgar Academy

Mathematics, Business Occupations, History, Homemaking, Agriculture, Music, Physical Development, and the Structure of Society. Students may, at the end of their ninth year, pursue knowledge in specially designed curricula for college preparation, General Education, Business Education, Agriculture, Homemaking, and Nursing.

The school serves a surrounding community that embraces approximately 112



The present public school building. Houses grades and high school

sections of some of the choicest farm land in Iowa. The transportation system has grown to five large buses transporting an average of 205 pupils daily. At the present rate of enrollment growth, the number will likely grow to 7 or 8 large buses within the next five years.

The school offers the service of a low cost, nutritionally balanced, lunch program. Approximately 40,000 lunches will be served this school year.

In the past year, the Music Program has been expanded from two part-time music instructors to two full-time instructors. The program has as its chief purpose the development of the esthetic and appreciative senses of children as the real value in music education.

The Athletic Program of the school strives to develop a keen competitive spirit in those who participate, and to give spectators and participants alike the opportunity to experience practicing the highest standards of sportsmanship. The physical education program is solely for the development of neuro-muscular skills, opening new ways for using leisure time, and for teaching good health habits.

School administrators endeavor to the best of their ability and in the interest of the overall welfare of the school and the community, to offer and to administer a complete modern program. They try to operate it as efficiently as possible and yet give the children a well-rounded educational program. It is a school of the people, by the people, and for the people to insure our way of life forever.

J. L.—C. H.



OUR GIFTS FROM THE SOIL

Agriculture

A hundred years of farming around St. Ansgar has brought many changes.

When the first settlers came in June, 1853, and settled along Red Cedar River, they found a river of crystal clear water. Its tributaries, Deer Creek, Turtle Creek, and Beaver Creek, were spring fed and clear. Along the banks grew hardwood trees: walnut, maple, oak and elm, with some cedar. Back from these clear water streams the timber changed to hazelbrush and finally prairie grass, and land less rolling.

The present generation, will be interested in the progress agriculture has made these one hundred years, and how the early settlers solved their problems.

The first settlers were farmers. June was too late to sow wheat and expect to harvest a crop. Therefore the first crops sown by the first settlers were corn, rutabagas and potatoes. The most important crop planted in Mitchell county near St. Ansgar was corn, and it is still our most important crop.

That first winter of 1853-1854 the people lived on rutabages, cornmeal bread and mush, potatoes and venison.

On Mikkil Tollefson's farm, 60 deer were killed that first winter.

When the first settlers started west from McGregor there were 75 people, 30 wagons, 150 cattle and 3 horses. Not all reached the St. Ansgar area. But from this information we know they had cattle. We also know they had oxen enough to pull 30 wagons, and had only 3 horses.

On the wagons were plows and hand tools, no other farm implements. With oxen and plows, they plowed hazelbrush and prairie land. To prepare for seeding and planting, they used brush as we now use a disc and harrow. Grain was sown by hand. In planting corn, a marker, consisting of three or four parallel pieces of wood, 46 inches apart and held in place by wooden braces across the markers, was used.

One or two men would pull this marker lengthwise and crosswise of the field. Where the marks crossed, the corn was planted, giving rows 46 inches both ways. Planting was done by making a hole where marks crossed and another person dropping the kernels of corn into the hole and covering.

The next improvement in corn planting was the hand planter. The marker was still used, but one man could plant and cover several acres a day. Next came the horse drawn planter with one man driving and one checking. Checking consisted of pulling a lever every time the planter shoe crossed a mark in the soil. Three or four kernels would drop as the lever was pulled.

Next came the wire, and now after one hundred years we drill or power check.

By 1866, crop yields in Mitchell County were reported—on spring wheat 13.7 bushels per acre; oats, 30.8; corn, 20.9; rye, from sorghum cane, 58.9 gallons, pounds of wool per sheep, 2.89. Land was assessed at \$4.10 per acre.

Wheat was the cash crop. It was hauled by wagon and oxen to Decorah, West Union, McGregor and Cedar Falls and was sold or traded for whatever the settlers needed, usually salt, coffee, tools, hardware, etc., or something they could not make or grow themselves.

In 1860, Knud Tollefson took 35 bushels of wheat to McGregor to trade for a barrel of salt. It took all of his wheat plus \$2.00 cash to pay for the barrel of salt.

One H. Benson hired his wheat hauled to McGregor. It cost him 30c a bushel to have it hauled and he received 35c a bushel for his wheat.

It took 15 days to go to McGregor and back by oxen and 8 days with horses.

In 1869, the Illinois Railroad was built and progress in agriculture became more rapid.

In November of 1878, farmers were receiving prices as follows: corn 20c; oats 20c; wheat 30-35c; live hogs \$2.00-\$2.10; butter 12½c.

In April of 1890, prices quoted to farmers at St. Ansgar were as follows: live hogs \$3.75-\$3.80; fat steers \$3.50-\$3.75; good

cows \$2.50; oats 20c; corn 20c; wheat 68c; eggs 10c a dozen.

In the fall of 1893, T. M. Tollefson had seed wheat for sale that tested 64 pounds.



Upright steam engine on Tollefson farm. Luther Tollefson driving

His yield was 38 bushels per acre.

By 1880 dairy farming had reached such importance that Samuel Moe and C. Hanson started a private creamery.

Dairy production grew to be an important farming enterprise from 1880 up to the present time. It started when the farm women had churned more butter than the family could consume and they took the surplus butter to the store to trade for groceries. In 1878, stores in St. Ansgar were paying 12½c for butter. Gradually farmers commenced to milk more cows. By 1887 the Farmers Creamery with G. A. Dutcher as buttermaker was producing 136,800 pounds of butter. The creamery sold the butter that year for an average of 24.3c.

Dairy farming is still one of our important types of local farm production. After one hundred years, dairying has become a very specialized type of farming. Dairy cattle are bred, fed and managed to produce economically and efficiently. Milk is produced and handled on the farms under the most clean and sanitary methods possible. The times are past when farmers can milk a few cows and sell the cream without regard to sanitation and cost of production.

By 1878, live hogs were being sold at \$2.00 to \$2.10 per 100 pounds at St. Ansgar. Dressed hogs were also quoted at \$2.75 to \$3.00 per 100 pounds.

By 1890 hog production had become one of the chief sources of farm income. In February, March and April 1890 nearly



Threshing at home, the 40 acres of oats bought in shock from a neighbor, with onion money from two acres.

one carload of hogs was shipped per day from St. Ansgar.

That same year 240 acres of land, the Nissen farm east of St. Ansgar, sold for \$8,700.

About the same time cattle feeding or, as spoken of in the 90's it was "fattening cattle," was practiced by a few. Prices quoted were \$3.50 to \$3.80 for fat steers.

Wheat farming was being replaced by livestock farming 1890 to 1900.

After the turn of the century, Gilbertson and Son commenced to grow onions and strawberries on a large scale. About 1910 Frank Sedlacek commenced to grow potatoes as a cash crop. The quality and quantity of vegetables grown in St. Ansgar area drew attention to this crop. Soon a number of people in and around St. Ansgar commenced to grow large acreages of potatoes, onions and cabbages.

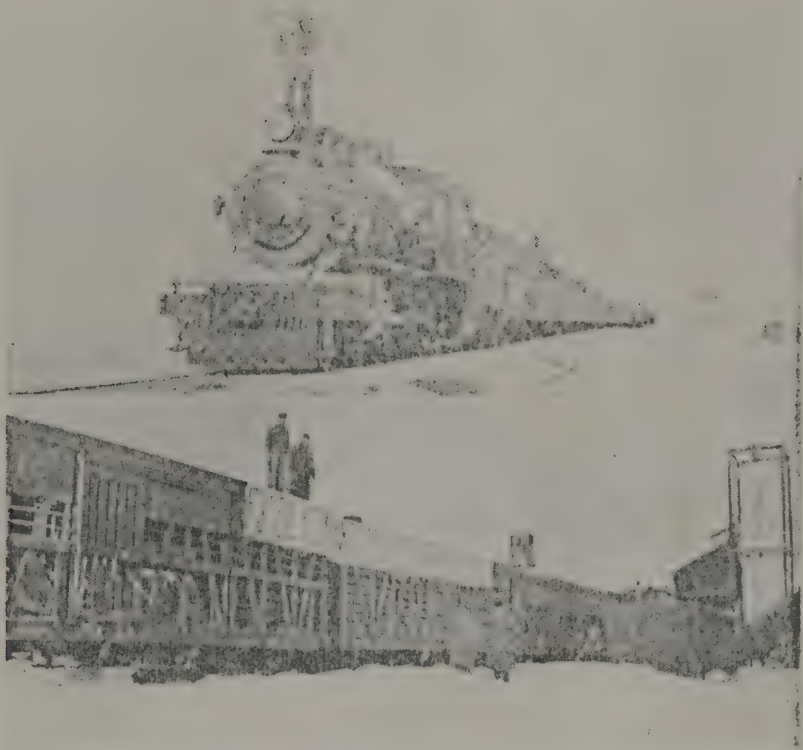
In 1924 the Iowa Truck Growers Association was organized at a Truck Crop Growers meeting at St. Ansgar.

Much wealth was created in the St. Ansgar area during the truck crop era. However, cost of production increased as fertility decreased on the land used for truck crops. Plant insects and disease developed with the increase in truck farming. It finally became a type of production that cost more than the product returned so this type of farming was largely abandoned.

However, during the growing of truck crops extensively, St. Ansgar area became widely known as the "Garden Spot of Iowa." That name can be applied today as well, even though St. Ansgar area is a diversified farm community.

The wealth of St. Ansgar and vicinity is still found in its natural resource, the soil. The pioneers and ancestors of the present generation, after 100 years of producing wealth in the form of food, have still left us an abundance of natural wealth in the soil.

The fertile soils of the area are the di-



Solid trainloads of Mr. Sedwick's roots of the wild state in our native timber.

vine gift in answer to the prayers of the early pioneers. When they asked for guidance to find a home in America, they were led to this area.

The beauty and productiveness of the St. Ansgar farming area are divine gifts. It is for us who now live to preserve and conserve these natural resources in all their beauty and productiveness so that we and it may be a blessing to future generations.
E. T.

Ginseng

The beginning of the ginseng industry dates back to late '90's when A. O. Gilbertson became interested in some of these **plants** found in the wild state in our native timber.

The industry had its inception in practically a handful of mother plants brought from the timber and transplanted into arbors. The small beginning grew from year

to year until it constituted possibly the largest botanical gardens in the world. There were two combined arbors representing $48\frac{1}{2}$ acres of which $42\frac{1}{2}$ acres were planted to ginseng—the remaining 6 acres to golden seal. Both plants require shade and were grown in natural and in artificially shaded arbors.

It takes from ten to twelve years to mature a crop of ginseng under natural shade as against seven to nine years under artificial shade, the quality being better under natural shade.

Gross returns from a four acre arbor of ginseng for the years '21, '22, and '23 were reportedly \$18,056, \$26,000 and \$14,845. In 1924 root fibers sold for \$2.50 per pound, and the best roots (fibers removed) brought from 12 to 14 dollars per pound. The seeds also sold at high prices. In the three years mentioned above, sales of seeds amounted to \$42,000. All this from the four acre arbor.



Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Gilbertson. Mr. Gilbertson was called "Krop Krank Number One." Producer of fancy onions and other vegetables

1985121



A Ginseng Arbor owned by A. O. Gilbertson, son of G. G. Gilbertson

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIES

A History of Banking in St. Ansgar

The history of banking in St. Ansgar reflects the steady and continued growth of this town and the surrounding area. During its early years, the new town conducted all banking business through financial institutions that had been established earlier in neighboring communities, principally Decorah and Osage.

It opened on March 26, 1891, as the St. Ansgar Bank, a private institution with Avery Brush as president and R. C. Lubiens as cashier and manager. The capital was \$10,000.

At the end of the first year of operations, the bank had \$56,522 on deposit. Deposits amounted to \$179,462 by 1900. Today, just 62 years after the St. Ansgar Bank's founding, bank deposits amount to more than \$2,200,000.



First Bank—Brush, Lubiens, Annis & Co., 1891. Enterprise printed in building to the right

The first banking business in St. Ansgar was carried on under the name "Exchange Office of H. Lubiens and Son." The exact date of its founding is not known, but an advertisement in the local paper on March 5, 1890, said: "Exchange Of H. Lubiens and Son. Does a general Banking business. Sells domestic and Foreign Exchange. Collections promptly attended to. Agents for the following steamship lines: Baltic Line, Hamburg, American Packet Co., Union Line, Hamburg Baltimore Line. Lowest Rates given."

Then in 1891, when it became increasingly apparent that complete banking facilities were needed in St. Ansgar, a group of citizens organized the town's first bank.

In October, 1900, a second private bank was organized under the name of "Citizens Bank," by C. H. Miller. First officers of this institution were: J. F. Koch, president; G. W. Fulton, vice-president; C. H. Miller, cashier, and Oscar H. Koch, assistant cashier. Capital stock was \$11,000.

A third bank was opened in January, 1915, with the name of "First National Bank." It was established by A. N. Lund, George M. Benson, J. B. Carlson and T. H. Hume. Capitalization was set at \$25,000. The first officers were: A. N. Lund, president; T. A. Groth, vice-president, and T. H. Hume, cashier.

During this period of time, St. Ansgar experienced wonderful growth and the

healthy financial condition of the community was shown by these bank deposit figures for 1918:

St. Ansgar Bank.....	\$ 741,000
Citizens Bank	601,627
First National Bank.....	100,000
<hr/>	
Total	\$1,442,627

At that time in 1918, the same officers were serving the St. Ansgar Bank and the First National Bank as when the institutions were founded. At the Citizens Bank, the same officers also were there, with the exception of J. H. Johnson, who was then vice-president in place of G. W. Fulton.

Subsequently the name of the St. Ansgar Bank was changed to "St. Ansgar State Bank" in 1922. Avery Brush, president and co-founder of the bank, died in 1923 after having served as president for 32 years.

At the time of the 75th Anniversary of St. Ansgar in 1928, the three banks had deposits totaling between \$1,800,000 and \$2,000,000. At the St. Ansgar State Bank, F. W. Annis was president, and Albert Halvorson was cashier. At the Citizens Bank, J. F. Koch was still president, and Oscar H. Koch was cashier, replacing C. H. Miller who had passed away. At the First National Bank, A. N. Lund and T. H. Hume were still president and cashier respectively.

The consolidation of the St. Ansgar State

Bank and the Citizens Bank on December 30, 1931, under the new name "St. Ansgar Citizens State Bank," brought together in one institution the Brush, Annis, Koch and Johnson families, all of whom had been prominent in the financial affairs of Mitchell County for more than 50 years. The consolidation gave the St. Ansgar Citizens State Bank \$1,192,190 in deposits, with total resources of \$1,270,829. The bank is still carrying on in St. Ansgar with this same name.

The bank statement published December 31, 1931, following the merger, carried these figures:

RESOURCES

Cash and Due from Banks..	\$ 153,817.58
United States Bonds.....	47,500.00
Other Bonds and Securities	
(at present market).....	172,876.85
Loans and Discounts.....	871,173.68
Bank Premises	15,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures.....	8,340.92
Overdrafts	1,272.44
Other Assets.....	848.21
<hr/>	
Total Resources	\$1,270,829.68

LIABILITIES

Capital	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus	25,000.00
Undivided Profits.....	3,639.13
Deposits	1,192,190.55
<hr/>	
Total Liabilities.....	\$1,270,829.68



O. H. Koch building in the Miller block. Built in 1900 by C. H. Miller. Housed Citizen's bank, dry goods store, drug store. Now Koch office, Gamble store and telephone exchange

Chosen as president of the newly consolidated bank was Oscar H. Koch, who, in 1930, had succeeded his father, J. F. Koch, as president of the Citizens Bank after the latter's death. Associated with him as stockholders of the Citizens Bank were Karl J. Johnson, A. Byron Golberg, James McCulla, Lloyd H. Koch, Conrad F. Hambrecht and Monrad A. Houg.

Stockholders of the St. Ansgar State Bank at the time of the merger were F. W. Annis, H. B. Annis, Laura Annis McCabe, Albert Halvorson, Birchard Brush, Joseph Brush, Laura Brush Spaanum and Julia Brush Johnson.

Albert Halvorson was elected cashier of the new institution. He had become well known to the entire community during his service as assistant cashier of the St. Ansgar Bank, later as cashier of the Clear Lake State Bank, then as cashier of the St. Ansgar State Bank since its incorporation in 1922 as a state chartered bank.

Lloyd H. Koch, the former cashier of the Citizens Bank, was elected active vice-president. A. Byron Golberg, who had been associated with Mr. Koch and the Citizens Bank since 1915, continued as assistant cashier and manager of the insurance department. Oscar L. Mueller, assistant cashier of the St. Ansgar State Bank since 1922, and Monrad A. Houg, with the Citizens Bank since 1919, continued with the new organization as assistant cashiers.

F. W. Annis, who was then president of the Home Trust and Savings Bank in Osage, was elected a vice-president of the consolidated bank, although he was not actively engaged in the banking business at that time, having served Mitchell County banks for many years previous.

Birchard Brush, cashier of the Osage Farmers National Bank in Osage, also was named a vice-president.

Another prominent Osage banker, Karl J. Johnson, president of the Osage Farmers National Bank of Osage, was selected as a director of the St. Ansgar organization. Mr. Johnson was perhaps one of the most active and best known Mitchell County bankers throughout the entire state.

The board of directors of the St. Ansgar Citizens State Bank after the merger was composed of: Oscar H. Koch, Karl J. Johnson, Lloyd H. Koch, F. W. Annis, Birchard Brush, and Albert Halvorson.

The year-end statement of the First National Bank on December 31, 1931, listed deposits of \$184,111, with loans and discounts of \$182,790. This bank was closed at the time of the Banking Holiday in March, 1933, and subsequently was liquidated.

The St. Ansgar Citizens State Bank continued in business and today holds a prominent position among the banks of Mitchell County and north central Iowa. The 1930's provided its ups and downs in business, because progress of the area was so closely allied with agriculture then as it is now. Despite those difficult days, the management of the bank continued to operate the business in an efficient manner so that it was always ready to serve customers to its utmost capacity.

In the fall of 1942 Lloyd H. Koch resigned as vice-president and director in order to re-enter the armed services, having previously served in the first World War.

In January of 1947, Mr. O. H. Koch retired as president and as a director in order to devote his time to his personal affairs. The following officers and directors were then elected. Albert Halvorson, president; A. Byron Golberg, vice-president; O. L. Mueller, cashier; who with A. T. Altick and M. A. Houg made up the Board of Directors. Since that time, Lester J. Ahrens and Donal R. Halvorson have been added to the board, the latter serving as assistant cashier.

The following figures show a comparison of year-end bank deposits in the St. Ansgar Citizens State Bank since its incorporation under that name more than 21 years ago:

1931	\$1,192,190
1935	804,612
1941	752,076
1945	1,672,521
1950	1,882,597
1952	2,201,151



Contour Farming



St. Ansgar Dam

Carding Mill

The old carding mill was owned by Michael (Mikkel) Olson. It stood south of the Middleburg bridge, on the east side of the creek, on the boundary line between Sweet's pasture and the Olson property (now owned by Mr. Tribbensee). The lower part was used for a carding mill. The upper part was a furniture factory. Mr. Olson also made caskets. In 1886 the building was torn down and the lumber used for building a barn. A.G.



The old Carding Mill

Tobacco Pipe Factory

St. Ansgar had a pipe factory in 1878. Mr. Havig, lumber dealer, was the proprietor and L. Ulven was manager and maker. The pipes were made of sweet briar root. "Every part was made, stem and all."

Book Bindery

Beginning in the early '80s and continuing for a number of years, C. G. W. Clausen operated a book bindery in the building now occupied by Josephine Gilbertson. He did, "all kinds of book binding, also plain and ornamental painting, striping buggies and wagons." A. G.

Cooper Shop

In 1878, a cooper shop was located in the west part of town. It was operated by

William and Charles Joy. The output of the plant was flour barrels and the capacity was about 100 per day, with six men employed. This shop supplied the St. Ansgar, Newburg and Otranto mills with flour barrels.

Brick Yard

Stevens and Medin started a brick yard in the northwest part of town in 1879. They made an excellent quality of brick, and "lots of them." The store now occupied by West Bros. is built of brick from this yard. A.G.

Woodworking and Later Produce Building

In 1880 or thereabouts, O. F. Havig was proprietor of a woodworking shop located in what was once the old stone school house. In 1882 he closed the shop and sold the property to J. F. Koch. Mr. Havig left St. Ansgar but returned in 1898, bought the old buildings where the Produce now stands, and again opened a wood-working shop.

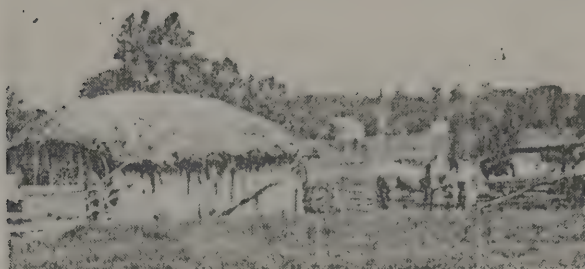
In 1901 a company was formed. It incorporated in the spring of 1902 as the "St. Ansgar Wood-working Co." Directors of the company were T. H. Hume, O. H. Anderson and A. N. Lund. R. C. Lubiens was secretary-treasurer and O. F. Havig, president.

In 1903 the building of the present Produce structure began. It is of solid brick, dimensions 40x80 ft.

In 1904 Koch, Miller and Koch came into the firm, making it Koch, Miller, Koch, Lund and Hume. Mr. Havig continued as cabinet maker and expert wood worker.

A. H. Kuehl succeeded Mr. Havig, continuing the wood working business. In 1923 Mr. Kuehl sold out to Brogmus Bros. a Produce firm handling eggs and poultry. They in turn sold an interest to a Chicago firm. Eventually the plant was purchased by the Cedar Valley Produce Co., present owners. Operations continued until 1952. At present the building is not in use. It is for sale or lease.

SUGGESTIVE OF PIONEER DAYS



John Dermody's old barn. Stood northwest of First Lutheran Church



Scene from 75th anniversary portraying arrival of Clausen family



Oxen and covered wagon which appeared in Centennial parade

A GROUP OF ST. ANSGAR HOMES



Dr. W. E. Owen
Residence

Home of Mrs. Nellie
Groth



O. H. Koch
Residence

Lumber

The first lumber yard was owned by J. N. Rhames, who was here in 1883 or earlier. In 1883, J. F. Koch also opened a lumber yard on the old Havig site, the corner where Hans Borsheim now lives. When Mr. Rhames died in 1884, J. F. Koch purchased his yard and moved it to the east part of town, on the south side of the main business street and near the railroad.

Koch and Son have held interests in the lumber business continually since 1883. The charter has been renewed three times under the following names: Farmers Co-op. Lumber Co., St. Ansgar Lumber Co., and St. Ansgar Lumber and Grain Co.

In 1945 O. H. Koch bought out the remaining stock holders. The yard is now owned by Lloyd Koch and is called the St. Ansgar Lumber Co. In 1952 the Koch interests and others purchased the Stacyville Lumber Co. and the Toeterville Lumber and Hardware.

St. Ansgar Mill

In 1855, the creation of a brewery and grist mill was commenced at St. Ansgar by a Mr. Sorenson and Mr. N. H. Lund. Little work was done, however, as it was sold to parties who removed most of the machinery to Minnesota.

In 1861, a grist mill was built on the Cedar River, southwest of St. Ansgar, by W. P. Bowan. He sold to S. V. R. Smith and Co. The firm changed hands several times, until a Mr. McCarthy purchased it in 1871. The mill did a large business, running both day and night to meet the demand. Flour and feed were shipped to many distant points. Mr. McCarthy originated the trade mark "Old Betz"—a name known for many years in these parts.

In 1885, the mill was rented to Rose and Fedson, who also did a large business, shipping to Des Moines and Chicago. They were followed by Charley Closz and later by Holmes and McGlen. In 1888 this



Old St. Ansgar Mill



Old Newburg Mill



Present St. Ansgar Mill

firm was dissolved and Mr. McGlen continued alone.

In the spring of 1894, the mill burned to the ground (the sixth mill burned in Mitchell County in ten years). The same year Rudolph Helfritz and Martin Klindt purchased the site and rebuilt the mill. Mr. Klindt later withdrew and for many years Mr. Helfritz operated alone.

Otto Boening succeeded Mr. Helfritz and also served for many years. He sold to Sherwin Kleinwort, the present operator. The original dam was of log construction. Mr. Boening replaced it with one of cement construction.

Mr. Kleinworth has for a number of years done an extensive business in mixing and selling specialized stock feed. He has extended the property and improved it in many ways.

Creameries

The first creamery and cheese factory was built in 1883 on block 41, south of the Rogers home (now the Vacha home), and opened for business late that year. Skimmers made their first rounds Jan. 2, 1884. Eight skimmers were employed full time. Owners of the creamery were Samuel Moe and C. Hanson. The buttermaker was a Mr. Wagner.

In March, 1887, a meeting was held to start a co-operative creamery. The board met in Brorby's store with J. F. Peshak, president; G. G. Gilbertson, vice-president and T. M. Tollefson, secretary.

An acre of land adjoining the village on the north was leased from Gjest Hanson for a period of twenty years at a rental of \$5 a year. H. K. Lane was awarded the contract for building. S. Moe and C. Hanson, about to dissolve partnership, met with the board and offered use of their equipment up to June 1.

The first cream checks were made out at 17c per inch for the first part of May—14c for the last half.

In August, 1906, the creamery burned to the ground. Since the lease had almost expired, and it was difficult to get proper drainage, a new site near the river was chosen and the present building erected.

The first co-op buttermaker was D. A. Dutcher. Those who have succeeded him are A. C. Trevitt, L. A. Jenkins, E. Mereness, A. Anderson, B. C. Iliff, H. R. Bullis, Monroe Bullis, and Hubert Hagen.

H. R. Bullis continued longest in the business, serving for 29 years, 1908 to 1937. He was succeeded by his son, Monroe, who learned the trade from his father in his high school days. Monroe later entered the business elsewhere. He returned in 1933 to assist his father, later succeeding him. In 1946 he resigned and Mr. Hagen took charge.



The first creamery, privately owned

Dairying

The history of the dairying in St. Ansgar reflects the gradual changes and developments in the dairy industry as a whole. In 1887, when Samuel Moe and C. Hanson sold the equipment from their privately owned creamery to the newly organized Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, butter was the only marketable dairy product from this area. Today, ice cream, cottage cheese and dried milk are marketed as well.

Many can recall when town residents kept a cow, until an ordinance was passed forbidding the practice within city limits. Today, modern plants pasteurize and homogenize milk before bottling. Dairy trucks deliver this processed milk to customers in convenient disposal waxed paper cartons.

The St. Ansgar creamery has operated under three different names: "Farmers' Co-operative Creamery of St. Ansgar," from its organization in 1887 to 1907.

In 1907 a new plant was built to replace the one destroyed by fire, and a new com-

pany, called the "St. Ansgar Creamery Co." took out a 20 year charter which was renewed in 1927 for another 20 years.

While the creamery has always operated as a co-operative, legally it was a corporation until the members voted in 1947 to organize as a co-operative so they might benefit from the advantages of the Iowa co-operative laws enacted in 1935. Thereafter it was known as the "St. Ansgar Co-op. Creamery."

Samuel Moe and Christopher Hanson were operating their privately owned creamery in the 1880's, but when the farmers in the St. Ansgar trade area felt they wanted to market their cream co-operatively, Messrs. Moe and Hanson offered to sell their equipment and fixtures excepting the engine and boiler, for \$316. They also offered free use of their plant until the new creamery could be built.

The new organization, formed in the spring of 1887 was called "The Farmers' Co-operative Creamery." Each member held a \$10.00 share. By 1890 there were 223 share holders.

H. K. Lane was awarded the contract to erect the new plant in the north part of town. He was to receive \$180 and have it completed in four weeks. The bill for lumber was \$410. In those early days of buttermaking, little machinery was required other than a churn, powered by a steam engine. A six h.p. steam engine and eight h.p. boiler were purchased for \$340. The new plant started operating in May, 1887.

Records of buttermaker Dutcher show 136,800 pounds of butter made the first nine months, and sold at an average price of 24.3c per pound. A tub-manufacturing firm in West Mitchell furnished tubs for 27c each.

In the early days, it was necessary to have a well-stocked ice house by the creamery because large cakes of ice were placed in the cream to cool it.

Until 1904, cream was measured in a special pail, and sold by the inch—a method favoring any one inclined to dilute his cream. The purchase in 1904 of a Babcock tester to determine the percent of butter-

fat in cream met with some disfavor, but was soon accepted as the only fair basis for payment. In the early '20s, the pasteurization law made it necessary to install pasteurizing vats and refrigeration.

The creamery and its contents were destroyed by fire on Aug. 30, 1906. The members voted to donate their equity in the organization to help build a new plant. It was decided to build a brick plant on an acre of land purchased from H. C. Dieterichs west of the city limits. This permitted the disposal of water and sewage into the river thus solving a problem which they'd had in the previous location.

The Osage Creamery offered the use of its plant to churn our butter, therefore the cream was shipped to Osage by express, until the new plant started operating in the spring of 1907.

A year later, Hugh Bullis assumed the duties and responsibilities of buttermaker and plant manager. It proved to be a wise selection and ended an era of continually changing buttermakers, many of whom had been discharged after two months trial service.

In 1925, after butter had been stolen from the plant, a home for the buttermaker was built on the grounds.

In 1936, H. R. Bullis retired from active duty, and his son, Monroe, with the assistance of Mrs. Bullis and the family, successfully operated the plant, until he resigned ten years later, thus ending nearly 40 years of faithful service by the Bullis family.

Hubert Hagen was the buttermaker from 1946 until this creamery consolidated with the Osage creamery in October, 1952, when he was transferred to the Osage plant.

In the early days buttermilk was sold by the barrel to the farmers on a first come, first served basis. Some would arrive before daylight and sleep in the warehouse until the cream was churned. Later, the buttermilk was auctioned off at the annual meeting, each day's output being sold separately. For two or three years, the St. Ansgar produce bought the entire output for chicken feed. In recent years, the buttermilk was sold to State Brand creameries for drying.

As former cream haulers see insulated trucks loaded with cans of milk speed past, they may think of days spent hauling cream in tanks on horse drawn vehicles over roads so deep with mud or so filled with snow that they often couldn't deliver the day's collection of cream to the plant by the 6 p.m. deadline.

A new era began when Ben and Floyd Kittleson used their Model "T" Ford truck to haul cream in the summer of 1919. By 1930, improved roads permitted the year 'round use of trucks to haul cream.

It was inevitable the small creameries would some day consolidate for cheaper, more efficient and expanded operations. This consolidation came almost a generation earlier in areas closer to big cities than it has here.

To meet consumer demand for more milk products and less butter, the St. Ansgar Co-op Creamery consolidated with the Osage Co-op. in October, 1952, so the plant's operation could be expanded to include the handling of whole milk at the Osage plant. Hubert Hagen was transferred to be plant manager.

Thus, the St. Ansgar creamery is still striving to keep abreast with the march of progress, and our dairy producers are still an important link in our national economy.

E.D.

Packing House

A stock company, called the St. Ansgar Packing Co., was formed in the early '80s with a paid up capital of \$15,000, according to an old file of the Enterprise. The company was incorporated in 1888. Officers chosen were: president, C. Fedson; secretary, A. P. Golberg; treasurer, Henry Lubiens; other members J. F. Koch and Martin Moe. Plans were made for a building 40 x 60 ft., with an engine room 20x4 ft.

At an annual meeting Feb. 1, 1888, the company reported a very successful year. In December of the same year they were reported as "running full time." A carload of lard was ready for shipment, and prices were quoted as follows: tenderloin, 8c per pound; leaf lard, 8c; ham trimmings, 5c; and ribs at 3c a pound.

In 1890, more buildings were added. Business was at its height, and the industry was spoken of as the "biggest industry in Mitchell County."

That summer, however, the plant had to shut down because of a shortage of ice.

In an issue of the paper dated Sept. 5, 1890, we read, "St. Ansgar will soon have a packing house again. T. J. Ryan has leased the plant, with the privilege of buying at the end of the lease."

In December, 1927, the packing house was destroyed by fire, together with 150 bushels of grain, two-thirds of which belonged to Mr. Graves (then operating the plant). The plant was spoken of as the "packing house feed mill" at that time. Thus ended another chapter in the industrial history of the town.

A. O. Gilbertson put in a side track to a point where the old packing house stood and erected a storage building.

Retail Business

There have been many changes in the color and method of retailing in St. Ansgar during the past 100 years. To many of us these changes come about so gradually that we hardly notice them. Not least has change been made in the appearance of retail establishments and in the variety of merchandise handled. Today, St. Ansgar can boast of several very modern retail businesses which have still retained the friendly and personal atmosphere. Its grocery stores, meat locker and food plant, variety store, drug store, implement buildings, dairy, elevator, lumber yard and bank, along with others typical of such change and progress.



Main street looking west from Larson's Grocery corner after 1882 (when kerosene street lamps were installed). Star indicates present West Bros. store building. Rennebohm's grocery at far left.



Looking west from the Blakestad corner (now the Miller Block). Arrow points to the old building where St. Ansgar Academy had its beginning—upper floor. First floor had a store at the front, and the Enterprise print shop at the rear.



Birdseye view, showing north side of main street in the late '90s

Birdseye view showing south side of main street. At upper left the old frame school building. The old Methodist church at the far end. Left front to back, C. L. Tessman Wagon and Horse-shoeing shop, Jeff Tollefson building, Vacha harness shop, A Rennebohm grocery, etc. Right front, jail and wood-working shop



Railroad

Early in 1862, rumors of a railroad were noised about. The Cedar Falls and Minnesota Co. had already made surveys. In 1865, the county issued bonds in the amount of \$50,000 to aid the company.

Through a ruling concerning taxes, the bonds were annulled except \$8,000 worth.

Before the railroad reached Mitchell County the property passed into the hands of the Illinois Central. The road finally came through in 1869, extending only as far north as Mona.

by Herman Pahl and made into a dwelling, in which capacity it still serves. The present station was built in 1942. The one which it replaced (the second depot) was torn down.

Passenger service was discontinued about the time the highway came through in 1932.

The Illinois Central railroad has played a vital part in the development of this region through its constant interest in improved agriculture. Today, through its employee, Robert Taylor, it is a moving force in the matter of soil conservation.

C. M.



First Illinois Central depot. Built on east side of the main track

George Brown surveyed for the railroad through this area. His surveying equipment is now in Palmer Olson's possession.

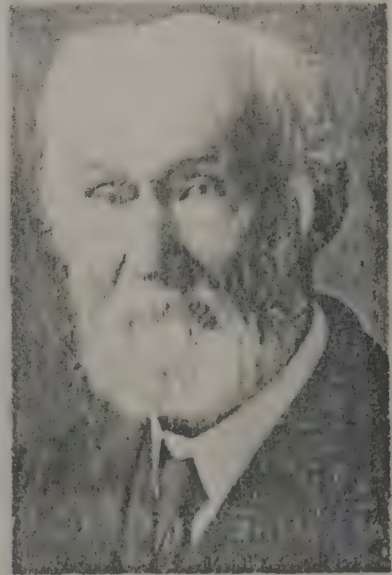
The first depot was on the east side of the main track, and between the two tracks.

It is interesting to note here that the Illinois Central had its roundhouse at Mona because it was not permitted to build into Minnesota. Some say it had been favorable to the South and therefore Minnesota Northerners were prejudiced against its building there. Pictures of this roundhouse are on page 94.

In 1898, as a result of pressure brought to bear by the Business Men's Association, a new depot, 70 feet long, was built on the west side of the track.

And that in turn has been supplanted by a smaller building now in use.

The original depot was auctioned off at a public sale in 1897 and was purchased by Will Getts. It was eventually purchased



George Brown
Surveyed the railroad through St. Ansgar. Purchased land, and became a prominent farmer



East end of Main street. Across street, front to back, former Peter Larson, store, now Jack Sprat store; former Syverud harness shop, now Hanson Radio & TV, above which the Modern Woodmen met; O. K. Berg blacksmith shop, the jail, and the Jeff and George Tollefson Elevator, which burned in December, 1882, 4,000 bu. oats and barley, a carload flax and 300 bu. timothy seed destroyed.



Looking west, south side. From left: Helfritz Drug; Racket store (later the Dodge Grocery); Hulse, and later, the Schuyler, barber shop, Clausen Bros. early photograph gallery (later a hat shop and now the Josephine Gilbertson residence); L. Moe's tin shop, Annie Moe's mercantile store, O'Conner building (housing Larson's Boot and Shoe store, a general store, and for a short time a Chinese laundry



Main street, portion of south side. Building indicated by X is the old McCarthy hall, also known as the "Old Candy Kitchen." To the right of the hall is present Economy store. Arrow at far left indicates Walkup House hotel (later harness shop), where present McKinley garage now stands.

Electric Light System

In November, 1903, the people of St. Ansgar were called to vote on the question of giving to the Woodworking Co. a franchise to establish an electric light plant. The company had made the town a proposition to furnish light at the rate of 75c per month, for a 32 candle power street light, only the main street to be lighted.

The election was 57 to 7 in favor of the franchise.

In 1907 the plant was taken to the Hel-fritz mill and was operated by water power until 1921, when the power plant was built at Newburg. A corporation organized in 1919, called "The Light and Power Co." with A. N. Lund as president, built the plant.

In 1926 it was sold to the Interstate Power Co., present owners.

In 1929, a "White Way" became certain, when a contract was signed with the Interstate company to equip St. Ansgar with a lighting system of 25 standards, with 250 candle power.

In this Centennial year, another improvement is taking place. Before the Centennial is observed this June a strictly modern new "White Way" system will be installed costing the Interstate company approximately \$11,000. This was made possible by a franchise election completed early in 1953. These lights were turned on for the first time June 5 under direction of local Interstate Power Co. manager, L. J. Coon.

History of the Co-operative Electric Company

St. Ansgar, Iowa

The REA was born back in the depression days of the mid 1930's. It was established to provide funds to relieve unemployment. Congress, in the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act approved April 8, 1935, made available to President Roosevelt one hundred million dollars. The President then, by executive order, created the Rural Electrification Administration on the urgent solicitation of, and in cooperation with, the major farm organizations of the nation.

When the Rural Electrification Act was signed by President Roosevelt on May 11, 1935, less than ten percent of the farms in the United States had central station electric service. One year after the President's executive order Congress passed a bill approved on May 20, 1936, extending the life of the REA for ten years and it has been continued up to the present time.

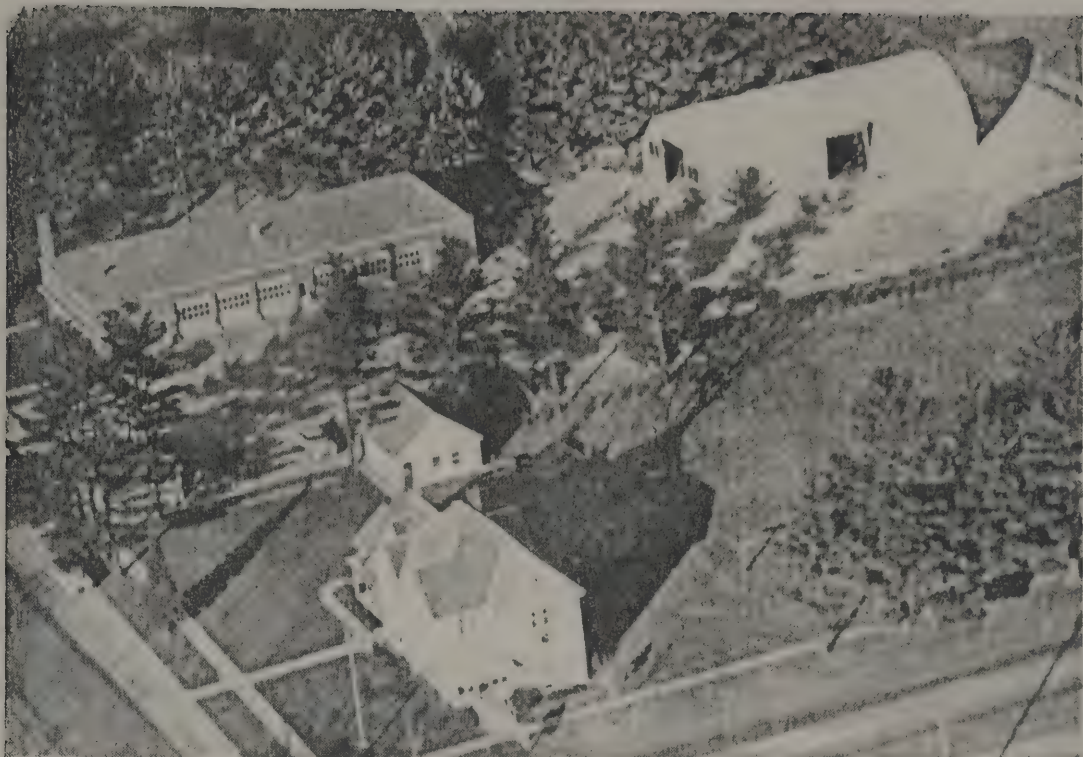
Electricity has become a very important part of farm life. More than three million farms, homes and rural industries in the United States are now receiving electric service through REA financed cooperatives and their government loans are being paid back with interest.

In 1937 a group of farmers got together in Mitchell County and organized the Co-op. Electric Company, which was incorporated in 1938. They were: Allert G. Olson, J. P. Hansen, E. M. Torblaa, C. E. Biederman and Arthur Gerlach. Later, two more members, Leon Smith and Walter Harman were added to the Board of Directors. Donald P. Chehock was employed as their attorney.

On February 1, 1939, Louis Vandermyde, Electrical Engineer with Ellerbe & Company of St. Paul, was employed as superintendent. He later became Manager of the Co-op. Electric Company.

During the summer of 1939, building of the lines was started. On November 22, 1939, the first section of line was energized. The first farm to be connected to the high line was the Elling M. Torblaa farm where the directors, the attorney, the Manager and their wives gathered to witness the momentous event. At this time a little over 200 miles of line were energized.

Originally electric power was purchased from the Interstate Power Company. In 1939 the Co-op Electric Company with eleven other electric cooperatives from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa organized a Power Co-operative known as the Tri-State Power Co-operative. This group later merged with thirteen Wisconsin electric cooperatives and formed the Dairyland Power Co-operative with headquarters at LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Since June, 1941,



Air view of R.E.A. offices, plant and quonset warehouse, with beautiful park area to right of offices. Pole yard is located 2 blocks south and one block to west of this site.

all electric power has been purchased from the company's own Power Co-operative.

Today, the Co-op Electric Company has over 1,000 miles of line serving almost 2,800 members. The Co-op Electric Company has an investment of approximately \$1,500,000. Approximately six million dollars have been invested by the members in wiring and appliances. This will give some idea of the business brought to this area and throughout the nation by the organization of the REA Electric Cooperatives.

The principal place of business of the Co-Op Electric Company was originally at Osage, but no office location was ever set up there due to the fact that no suitable office building could be found. A large room in the First National Bank building in St. Ansgar was available and the Board of Directors decided to locate here. The office was set up March 1, 1939, with warehouses and garages for trucks in various

places. In 1944, the company purchased the blacksmith shop owned by Bob Olson and located on highway 218 for a garage and warehouse. This building was later sold and now houses the Town Talk Cafe.

Due to the rapid growth and expanding business of the Co-Op Electric Company, the Brenna property located in Block 81 at the east edge of St. Ansgar was purchased. The spacious house on this property was well adapted to use as office headquarters. In May of 1946, the office was moved to this location. The interior of the house was redecorated and the grounds were landscaped.

In 1948 a new brick warehouse and garage were built on the northwest corner of the block at a cost of approximately \$35,000. In 1952 a large quonset building was erected for additional storage. This is located just east of the new warehouse. Also four lots in Block 58 were purchased from Palmer C. Olson. This location was

improved by grading and crushed rock surfacing and is now used as a permanent pole yard. The Illinois Central railroad spur to the Olson warehouse was extended to the pole yard to expedite the unloading of poles. This area has also been beautified by the planting of a honeysuckle hedge.

Two-way radio equipment was purchased in 1946 to be used between the office and service trucks. This equipment has aided greatly in maintaining good electric service. The Co-Op Electric Company of St. Ansgar was the first REA Cooperative in the state of Iowa, as well as in the Dairyland system, to install two-way radio equipment.

The present Board of nine Directors consists of Allert G. Olson, Osage, president; Walter Harman, Osage, vice-president; Clarence Biederman, Osage, secretary; Orlo Jensen, St. Ansgar, treasurer; E. C. Flatness of Northwood, Alvin Frank Charles City, Fred Langrock of St. Ansgar; Irving Winer and Harlan Noble of Riceville and L. E. Plummer of Northwood, attorney. Other men not mentioned before, who have served on the Board, are Lawrence Wolff and John Markham.

The following people are presently employed by the Co-op Electric Company:

Louis J. Vandermyde, general manager; Gene Gerlach, superintendent of electric lines; Ed Callen, power use advisor; Laverne Michaels, office manager; Margaret Ehlke, assistant bookkeeper; Rosella Houg, cashier; Mary Ann Halverson, assistant cashier; Elaine Petersen, secretary; Marion Neeley, work order clerk; Robert Chancellor, store keeper; Orven Stromley, mechanic; Harlan Hansen, lineman; Virgil Horgen, lineman; Leonard Fox, lineman; Donald Piper, lineman; Roger Berg, lineman; Gerald E. Halverson, lineman; Walter Brown, groundman; Arthur Schmidt, custodian.

Twelve of these employees own their own homes, and all of them are happy to be living in the town of St. Ansgar. L.V.

Fire Protection

From the files of the Enterprise of 1879, we learn that the town had two chimney inspectors, C. K. Martin and J. Hatton; that C. K. Martin was at work on ladders for a "Hook and Ladder Co.," that said company had headquarters in the Keystone hotel. C. K. Martin was captain, C. H. Owen, first lieutenant and S. W. Cook, second lieutenant. Henry Lubiens was mayor.

In 1897 we read that the town had "no organized protection" and that a "very effective means is within reach in the shape of hand grenades and a few portable fire extinguishers." Lewis Intorf was inspector that year.

In 1884 we read—"The council discussed the question of buying a fire engine, and having at least two good cisterns in parts of town where most serviceable."

Today, in 1953, St. Ansgar has a fire department of which it may well be proud. A company calling themselves "The Eagle Hose Co." was organized in 1903, and has functioned steadily through these fifty years.

The town truck was purchased in June, 1928; the rural truck in May, '48.

Present officers are: Fire Chief, Waldo Wold; President, Richard Chancellor; Vice-president and assistant chief, Glen Priem; Secretary, Clair Carson; Treasurer, Alton Kittleson.

The company has a complete file of minutes for the full fifty years. We wonder if any other volunteer fire company can show as complete a record.

Water Supply

In March of 1902, the matter of installing water works in St. Ansgar was presented to the voters of the town. The proposition was carried 143 to 19. The council called for bids and later accepted Emil Sedlacek's bid for drilling the ten-inch well. In July, a contract was let calling for an eighty-foot tower to hold a tank twenty feet in diameter and 22 feet high, with a capacity of 1,500 bbls., or 48,000 gallons. The price was a little over

Bringing in the second well in 1932. Left to right: August Janzow, John Bernstein, Tom Tollefson, LaForest Sherman, E. R. Tessman, Clarence Golberg. Center back is driller Bert Scharf, flanked by his two sons at far ends.



\$7,000. The tank was located on the corner where the fire station now stands.

By the middle of February, 1903, the plant was practically completed. The fire department tested the throwing power of the system, and pronounced it O.K. because they were able to throw water to the top of the Methodist church spire (old church).

In 1902, a Waterworks Company was organized for the purpose of building that part of the water works for which the town had not money to build. The same was leased to the town.

Articles of incorporation were published in March, 1903, signed by Martin Moe, R. C. Lubiens, George Lubiens, A. N. Lund, George M. Brown, T. H. Hume and Ole Severson.

In 1917, the tank was moved to its present location in the east part of town.

In 1932, the second pump was added and both were replaced in the late '40s.

In the spring of 1939, St. Ansgar received approval for a W.P.A. project for installation of sewer mains throughout St. Ansgar. Fifteen W.P.A. workmen found employment on the job.



Fire Department, 1953

Mains have been extended until today the town's needs are quite adequately met.

Disposal Plant

The town has a modern disposal plant and is also unique in the facilities they have provided for the disposal of garbage. Alfred Hansen operates a garbage service truck for those who wish this service. He is also village marshal. All junk is buried at the city dump in charge of Grant Berg.

In 1922 a disposal plant was completed. It is an ingenious device for taking sewage as it comes from the pipes, putting it through various processes and delivering water at the other end 95 percent pure. A huge tank, 20 feet square and 21 feet deep is made into compartments, with chambers for gas to be carried off, allowing solid matter to settle. About once a year the solid matter is forced into what is known as the sludge bed, where gasoline is poured on it and it is burned.

St. Ansgar Telephone

The St. Ansgar Telephone and Exchange Company was organized in the fall of 1900. At the turn of the 20th century, it proved to be one of the most needed and best improvements in this vicinity. It was headed by three local men: Martin Moe, president; R. C. Lubiens, vice-president and treasurer, and S. J. Peshak secretary and manager. Construction work started in the spring of 1901. By the middle of April, the switchboard was installed with 51 town telephones and 21 rural subscribers at a nominal fee of \$1.00 per month.

Edith McCullough Anderson was the first telephone operator, with daytime service from 7 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. As the business expanded, a night operator was added and from that time on the community has had 24 hours service.

Martin Moe and S. J. Peshak served as officers of the company until 1927 when it was sold to the Iowa Union Telephone Company for \$60,000. At the time of this transaction, there were 633 telephones. A year later, the company changed hands again and the Mid-West States Utilities

Company became the owners. In 1934 it was sold to the Central Iowa Telephone Company, which is the present owner. At the present time, there are 725 telephones.

M.M.

St. Ansgar Newspapers

The first weekly newspaper, called the St. Ansgar Weekly Journal, was published in 1861. Records say that it was owned by A. G. Owen and edited by L. S. Everett. Very little more is known about the publication.

The second weekly in St. Ansgar was first published in 1876 by J. H. Smith and was known as The St. Ansgar Register.

Due to financial difficulties, Mr. Smith was forced to sell. In May of 1877, it was taken over by W. A. Thomas and Martin Moe. After a few months, the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Moe became the sole owner. It was at this time that Mr. Moe founded what is still known as the St. Ansgar Enterprise. The first edition was published Nov. 1, 1878.

Mr. Moe gambled on the future of St. Ansgar after his predecessor had failed. But, The Enterprise has developed with the community for nearly 75 years.

That he might devote his time to other interests, Mr. Moe sold to Miles A. Culver in 1892. Mr. Culver continued to publish in much the same style and manner as did Mr. Moe.

As typical of the newspaper of that era, it contained much more advertising than news. The very first column on the front page listed advertisements—doctors, ministers, auctioneers, draymen, etc. Two-fifths of front page copy was advertising. Often this news was correspondent's letters from Carpenter, Mitchell and Osage, and no headlines were in evidence.

As the methods of communication improved, so did The Enterprise. By the turn of the century, news—thanks to the telephone, telegraph and mails—was beginning to crowd out non-essential printed and boiler-plate matter, headlines were used, and jokes and stories and local bits of social news were moved from the front page to other pages.



Martin Moe

Editor of the Enterprise; President of the Telephone Co.; Elected Mayor 1887, 1898, and 1924



Sylvan J. Peshak

One of the organizers of the St. Ansgar Telephone Co., 1900. Expert electrician



Old Enterprise office, now a part of the Miller Grocery. Enterprise in the back part, book store in front. Andrew T. Moe, Proprietor



R. C. Lubiens, Banker

One of the organizers of the Telephone Co. and its first treasurer



J. F. Koch

Opened a lumber yard in 1883. Koch and son have held interests in the business continuously since that time. First President of the Citizens Bank established 1900.



Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Miller
Organized the Citizens Bank in 1900, of which he was made cashier



Thomas H. Hume

Farmer-Banker. State representative for a number of terms. First cashier of First National Bank



A. N. Lund

Farmer. Assisted in establishing the First National Bank and was first president of the same

Eventually most of humorous bits and yarns were omitted entirely. However, advertisers continued to pay for advertising space sold for on the front page until 1936. This was changed by Charles Thacher, who became the new owner that year. On March of 1928, Mr. Culver had started using a new style of more readable type.

Mr. Culver died in 1930 and his wife, now Mrs. Florence Culver Brigadier of New Hampton, continued to publish the Enterprise until it was sold to Marvin Clement of Waseca, Minn., who made no major changes in the publication.

Any changes in the style and content of the newspaper were largely made by Mr. Thacher and K. M. Gjertson, who purchased The Enterprise from Mr. Thacher in June of 1951.

In 1952, The Enterprise employed three members in the News and Editorial staff besides eight correspondents from nearby village and rural communities. It employed one advertising serviceman and two linotype operators. It is published weekly on Thursdays.

In the fall of 1952, The Enterprise staff began publication of the Lyle Community News for the Lyle, Minnesota community. It is published each Wednesday morning.

Hotels

The first hotel in St. Ansgar was started in the fall of 1854 in a building that stood on the northwest corner of block 20, where the Bates House later stood (the corner where Wilmer Hartwig now lives). It was afterward sold to Jonathan Allen.

THE NEWBURG HOTEL

This old hotel was the first building erected on the town site of Newburg west of the river. It was built by S. R. McKinley, a pioneer of 1855, and stood on the first street west of the river and just north of the road leading to the old McKinley home. It was used as a stage stop by the daily stage between Dubuque and St. Paul. Here they changed horses.

Because four older brothers were in the army, Lyman, son of S. R. McKinley, early took up responsibilities unusual for his age. When only fifteen years old, he regularly drove the stage from Newburg to Austin, returning the following day.

THE KEYSTONE HOTEL

In 1857, A. G. Owen put up the Keystone house. It was at that time the largest hotel in northern Iowa. It was 40 x40 feet, two stories high, and when furnished cost about \$8,000. Mr. Owen ran the hotel until the



The old Newburg Hotel. Built by S. R. McKinley, pioneer of 1855. In center of picture is L. J. McKinley and dog Jack. Church service and Sunday school held in this hotel



Keystone Hotel. Erected 1857. Stood where the Koch Implement building now stands. Burned June, 1883, when owned by Henry and Ed Holmes

time of his death, and his widow ran it until she passed away. After this, Samuel Sweet was the proprietor for many years until it was sold to T. D. Green. He ran it for a time, then leased it to various parties. In 1883 the building burned to the ground. Today, the Koch Implement building, which was built in 1890 occupies the site of this old landmark.

THE WESTERN HOUSE

This hotel stood on the corner now occupied by the Phil McKinley residence. For twelve years, from 1894 into the 1900s, it was operated by Peter Christensen. He also had a livery and feed stable on the lots now owned by Hans Borsheim. The building was sold, moved to the northwest part of town, and is now the dwelling of Mrs. Martha Hackbarth.



Western House. Was located on the present Phil McKinley residence corner. Note the street lights (kerosene lamps) which were installed in 1882

THE DYKEMAN HOUSE

In 1869, when the railroad reached here, a hotel was built where the Klindt hotel now stands, and a Mr. Turner became the first landlord. About 1873, Mr. Dykeman took charge and operated the hotel until his death in 1893. Harry Parsons operated the hotel for a number of years. He also had a livery barn across the street.

In the spring of 1904, the building was torn down. A. N. Lund purchased the newer part, moved it to the west part of town and made it into a dwelling. Adolf

Lund was the first occupant. Today the home is occupied by Sophie Thompson.

THE WALKUP HOUSE

This hotel, operating in the '70s, stood on the northwest corner of block 76, where McKinley's garage now stands. In October, 1879, the building was sold to John Vacha for a harness shop.

In the '60s, this building housed the printing office of the St. Ansgar Journal, a forerunner of the St. Ansgar Register and the Enterprise.

Water Tower and Old Hotel. This picture most interesting because it shows the Dykeman hotel at far right (where Klindt hotel now stands). The tower (built in 1903) which was moved to the east part of town in 1917, depot No. 2, and the Fedson Elevator



THE KLINDT HOTEL

About 1900 or earlier, a local company was organized for the purpose of erecting an hotel. After consideration of the plan, it was decided not to build at that time. In 1901, the project was again brought up. This resulted in a proposition by C. Fedson to build the hotel providing the town would donate the lot. His offer was accepted. A subscription list was started and soon the price of the lot was in hand. On a Thursday afternoon, the committee met Mr. Fedson to inform him of the fact. Fedson agreed to begin work at once.

The following Sunday, Mr. Fedson went to Chicago with a load of stock. Monday

morning he met a tragic death in a railroad accident. Plans for the hotel were again halted.

In 1904, six men again formed a company to build. The incorporation notice was signed by J. F. Koch, C. H. Miller, T. H. Hume, Martin Moe, O. H. Koch and A. N. Lund. The long desired hotel became an assured fact.

The building was completed late in 1904 and was rented to the Hadleys. A grand opening was held in March, 1905. Landlord and Mrs. Hadley provided an elaborate menu, engaged the Seminary orchestra for the evening, and made the occasion one long to be remembered.



The Klindt Hotel
Formerly known as
the City Hotel. Held
grand opening in
March, 1905. Pur-
chased by Martin
Klindt

The Hadleys tenure was not long. Martin Klindt purchased the property and retained ownership until his death in 1920. He had operated it himself until he became our local postmaster. While he served as postmaster, the hotel was rented to various parties. At his death, his daughter, Mrs. Marie Wilke became owner and proprietor and continues to do so at the present time.

German Farmer's Mutual Insurance

One of the earliest St. Ansgar community associations of farmers for their mutual protection is The German Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Mitchell County, organized at St. John's Lutheran church in Rock Creek area in December, 1881.

Though early records are incomplete, they show 87 members in 1889. The first 12 years, each member paid a fine of fifty cents if he failed to attend the annual meeting. In 1892, there were 132 members with insurance in force totaling \$245,771. Total income that year was \$219.83; total disbursements \$231.40; balance cash \$808.20. Losses included 3-year-old colt,

\$80; 2-year-old heifer, \$15; a cow, \$18; house and contents (burned to ground), \$300 and loss paid with \$133.66 settlement; household goods, \$100; 6 bags potatoes, \$3.60; 70 bushels wheat valued at 50c per bushel or \$35; president's salary that year was \$5; secretary's \$25, and treasurer's \$5.

First officers were: A. H. Rosenberg (father of R. C.), president; Fredrick Steinberg (father of Wm., Otto and Emil), vice-president; August Krause (father of Emil of Osage), secretary; Ferdinand Wilde (father of Henry), treasurer; adjusters, August Feldt (father of August, Jr. Osage), Adolph Borchardt (father of George E. of Grafton), and Henry Toeter (later founder of Toeterville).

In 1894, Asmus Brogmus (father of Wm. and Chris, who had Produce and Meat Market) was elected secretary and remained so until 1932. From beginning until 1917, all meeting and minutes were in German language.

In 1906, Michael Schmidt was elected president, holding that office until May 28, 1910; succeeded by R. C. Rosenberg, who still serves in that capacity (43 years later). Asmus Brogmus was succeeded by O. C. Seefeld in 1932. He served until 1946 when present secretary A. W. Krone-man, became secretary. K. G.

Entertainment—Lyceum— Chautauqua

The earliest records preserved hinting at the great interest in music, dramatics, and literature which was to be shown in St. Ansgar in later years, are items in the Register of 1876, and in the Enterprise of 1878. The former refers to a singing school which was in progress under the direction of J. W. Evans and the article in the first edition of The Enterprise mentions the "entertainments and evening pastimes"—in the form of literary clubs, a dramatic club and a singing club—"which our busy little town has scared up." An article in a later paper of the same year is high in its praise of a home talent concert, which had been presented, and of a play given by the Amateur Dramatic club.

The 1879 and 1880 editions have many references to Miss Nellie Tarrant's "classes in voice culture to be held at her millinery shop," and to concerts which were presented by her and by her students at McCarthy's Hall. One of the programs consisted of solos and quartettes and concluded with the Juvenile Operetta "Red Riding Hood's Rescue," in which Emma Martin (now Mrs. S. J. Peshak) was Red Riding Hood and Isaac Fulton was the Wolf.

Later, in the 80's and 90's, and in the first two decades of the 20th century there were classes in organ, piano, violin and vocal music conducted by Minnie E. Bundy, M. N. Clausen, H. P. Blakkestad, P. L. Peterson, Helga Olson, Harriet McKinley and Selma Houg. Miss Olson, an outstanding pianist who later studied in Europe, and was an instructor at St. Olaf College and at the McPhail School of Music, taught in St. Ansgar for many years and presented many fine concerts here. A notice of a musical entertainment to be given at the St. Ansgar Academy in June, 1890, in which both Miss Olson and Mr. Blakkestad, violinist, took part, mentions that "after the entertainment, a strawberry festival will be the next in order."

Also, in the 1890's, the Ellsworth family came to St. Ansgar and held week-long

musical "conventions" which began with a concert given by the family and closed with a recital-concert presented by the class.

1903 found a Ladies' quartette organized in St. Ansgar—one of the first of many similar groups. Members of the quartette were Anna Lovestrum, Josephine Vacha, Clare Moe and Gurol Hylden, with May Peshak as pianist. They sang at many gatherings in the community and in nearby towns.

Also, in 1903, the Lecture Course was initiated in St. Ansgar under the direction of a committee composed of Prof. J. P. Lund, Prof. J. P. Tandberg and O. O. Donhowe. This annual course and the Chautauqua which followed a few years later, continuing until the late twenties, brought talent of the highest order to St. Ansgar.

Outstanding among the lecturers were: the Hon. J. Adam Bede, Congressman from Minnesota; Col. George W. Bain, called the "Silver-Tongued Orator of Kentucky," Ernest Harold Baynes, a naturalist famous for his articles in leading magazines—Harper's, McClures and Scribners—who illustrated his lectures with stereoptican views; Dr. Frederick Cook, the Arctic explorer; and Glenn Frank, a noted social reformer who later became president of the University of Wisconsin.

Other lecturers were Mark Sullivan, the columnist and editor of Collier's Weekly, who had just returned from a trip to Mexico where he had been sent by President Wilson to get a close-up view of the bandit-general Huerta, who was causing an uprising there; Judge Kenyon, a U. S. Senator and successor of Senator Dolliver; the Rev. Frank M. Bristol of Washington, D. C., who was President McKinley's pastor; and Robert E. Goldsmith, Editor of Harpers, who gave his famous lecture, "The Bluebird of Happiness," based on "The Bluebird," a drama by the Belgian poet, Maeterlinck.

Musical entertainment included such famous artists as Skovgaard, the great Danish violinist; Castellucci and his Italian Band; the Royal Scottish Entertainers; the Waikiki Singers and Players, who had rep-

resented Hawaii at the San Francisco Exposition; the Kaffir Boys, a group of junior voices from Africa, trained to sing in English without being able to understand or speak the language; and a similar group known as the Roney Boys, a group of poor boys picked from the streets of Boston and trained by their leader, Henry B. Roney.

Other celebrated entertainers were Bess Gerhart Morrison, a nationally known reader, who was in St. Ansgar five times to fill engagements; Germaine, the Magician; and a number of dramatic groups including the Mallory Dramatic Co.

In St. Ansgar, as well as in other towns throughout the country, the Lecture courses and the Chautauqua gradually gave way to moving pictures, to radio, and to television.

The pattern of music within the community, however, has remained much the same. Private instructors, as well as the greatly enlarged school music program, offer both individual and group training in instrumental and vocal music, with concerts and recitals presented regularly. Several very successful minstrels have been presented, sponsored by Lions and others.

F. P.

The St. Ansgar Band

The history of the St. Ansgar band dates back to 1879, when word went out that St. Ansgar was to have a brass band. From old files of the Enterprise, we learn that a band was organized in 1880. For lack of better facilities, it practiced in the old depot.

In 1886, twelve new uniforms were purchased, proceeds from a concert helping to pay for the same.

Jan. 2, 1893 brought the opening number of a series of musical and dramatic entertainments, given for the benefit of the band, under their own auspices. O. H. Koch was musical and stage manager.

In March, 1899, the band sponsored a minstrel show, probably the first ever witnessed in St. Ansgar. In the Enterprise, we read that "many people here have never seen a minstrel." Proceeds were \$77.

Apparently, the band suffered some re-



Helga Olson. Concert pianist, studied in Europe, instructor at St. Olaf College, had a studio for many years in Minneapolis. She was the daughter of the Rev. J. Olson who succeeded the Rev. Clausen

verses. In October, 1904, we read, "St. Ansgar used to have a fine band." At this time, Prof. Mellem, of the Seminary faculty became leader and the situation improved.

In 1908, a portable band stand was built.

Perhaps the highest point of achievement for the municipal band came into being under the leadership of Dr. O. E. VanDoren, for ten years director of the State University band, who through the influence of Dr. R. W. Rogers, was persuaded to come as guest conductor in the summers of 1922 and '23.

In 1923 they played at a Legion convention at Mason City, the big event of which was a band contest. Bands competing were from Davenport, Cedar Falls, Ames, Hampton, Clear Lake and St. Ansgar. Clear Lake won first, St. Ansgar won second honors and a check therewith for \$200. It should be noted here that the competing Clear Lake band was made up of professionals; St. Ansgar's were amateurs.



Probably the first St. Ansgar band. Front, left to right: Nick Miller, Lars Peterson, Hansen, Otto Helfritz (?)
Back: Oscar Anderson, Ed Christensen, (?) , Rudolph Helfritz

Another old time band. Left to right: Robert Lubiens, Charles Enneberg, Andrew Moe, Carl Hansen, Nick Miller



St. Ansgar Band of 1922-23



St. Ansgar High School Band of 1953. Merlin Johnson directs the band

R. V. Leach, regular band director for a number of years, organized the first Junior band. It appeared in concert in February, 1923.

In the same year Mr. Leach resigned, and was followed by Mr. Johnson. The latter stayed but a short while and Mr. Dillon of Northwood finished the season.

The next year, Harry Keeler of Mason City was secured as leader. He served for several years, ending his work here in 1928, the year of the 75th anniversary celebration.

In 1929, St. Ansgar was without a band.

In 1930 an arrangement was made whereby a school band director was to be hired, the town band to turn over to the school their instruments and their splendid library of music. Accordingly, R. C. Baskins was elected the first band director in our school system.

Since that time, the school band has steadily grown, in numbers as well as in the quality of music rendered. Today, the band numbers 60 players. The present director is Merlin Johnson, whose work is of a high standard, his band having rated superior in the 1953 state spring contest.

Libraries

The St. Ansgar N. E. Library Association was organized in February, 1872, with Knut Assorsen as president and C. Rustad as secretary. Lars Moe, A. D. Bundy, Christopher Hanson, and Bent Benson were members. Quite a collection of books was donated to the library, which was then in Lars Moe's store.

Martin Moe was elected to serve as librarian.

Shares were sold at \$2.00 each. In 1882, they voted to dispose of the 100 shares and gave their 300 volumes to the Seminary. The organization was then disbanded. It had existed for ten years. I.K.

THE NISSEN LIBRARY

In 1925, Mrs. Karen Nissen bequeathed to the town of St. Ansgar a liberal sum to be used for a public library,—the same to be called the "Nissen Library". A location was procured on Main St., just east of the Champlin oil station and work was begun.



In the center of the picture is the first Nissen Library, 1927, next to Champlin service station. Destroyed in the disastrous service station explosion of September, 1929.

The first trustees were Mrs. Vida Hess, Mrs. Robert Lubiens, Mrs. Minnie Lund, Paul Rosel, and Albert Halvorson. Frequent meetings were necessary for organization. May 24, 1927, the first order for books was mailed. In September 1927, Miss Iola Lund was elected to be the first librarian.

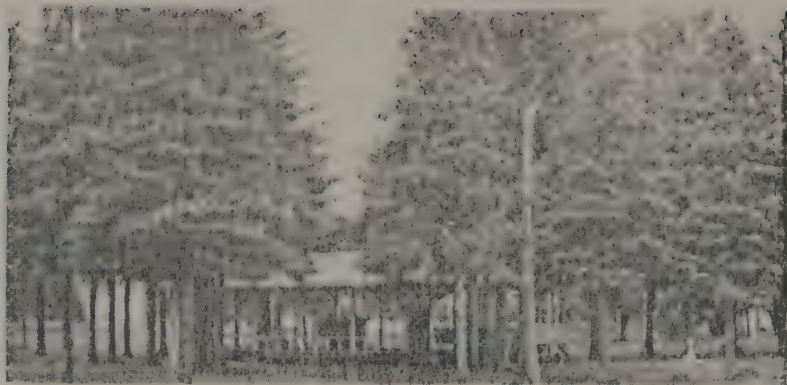


**Present Nissen library,
built in 1930. Houses
council room, library
and rest room**



**Mrs. Karen Nissen,
donor of the Nissen
Library**

**Clausen Memorial
Park, showing the old
pavilion, built in 1892
torn down in 1940**



Oct. 27, 1927, the library had its formal opening with a program at the High School. Miss Julia Robinson, executive secretary of the Iowa Library Commission, gave the address of the evening. After the program, a reception was held at the library.

August of 1928 brought the resignation of Iola Lund, and Mary Ellen Lund was elected to succeed her.

Disaster fell in September, 1929, when the filling station near the library exploded, causing the death of Mr. Parker, the owner, and the destruction of the library. The books were moved to a room in the Klindt Hotel.

At the next meeting, architect's plans for a new building were discussed. After various suggestions as to a location, a lot belonging to R. C. Mueller was selected.

In a meeting with the Town Council, it was agreed that the council rooms, a rest room, and the library be housed in one building. Plans went forward, and in 1930 the present library was erected. Everyone worked diligently to raise money for new books. Vanishing teas were very popular,—as well as flower shows.

During 1931, the Study Club, the Progress Club, the First Lutheran Aid, the Lions club, the German Lutheran Aid, and the Commercial club all contributed to the library fund.

Miss Anna Olson was elected librarian in '31 and served twelve years, and much of the success and growth of the library was due to her interest and activity. Mrs. Florence Halvorson was elected to succeed her.

In August 1949, Mrs. Halvorson resigned, and the following month Mrs. Sherwin Kittleston, the present librarian, was elected.

The library now numbers about 5,000 current volumes.

During the year of 1952, the Nissen Library loaned 8221 volumes, and served 4,451 children and adults. I.K.

Clausen Memorial Park

When the town was platted, three squares were reserved for public purposes, one of which is the present park north of the main business street. In the early days, the park was inclosed with a board fence to keep out cattle.

Little use was made of the park until the early '90s, when a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. L. Moe and organized a "Park Society", the purpose of which was to raise money for park improvements. In 1892, a pavilion was erected in the center of the park. It was covered with a shingled roof.

It served its purpose well, until the spring of 1940, when it was torn down by order of authorities.

In 1953 the St. Ansgar Lions club launched a new band shell project to be completed in the park. It raised money through a subscription campaign, a minstrel show and a street sale. Ben Mouw and Harold Wall played a very important part in making this project successful in time for the Centennial celebration.

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY



High School Graduation, 1900



St. Ansgar Band, 1900

Back Row, Standing—Chas. Enneberg, —, Director Arseners, Hjalmer Anderson, Edgar Gibbons, Roy Peshak. Center Row—Sylvan Peshak, Earl Cavett, —, Peter Blakestad, Peter Peterson, Geo. McCullough. Front Row—Paul Rosel, Herman Rosel, Nick Miller, O. H. Koch



Prof. C. H. Maxson, superintendent and mathematics instructor in 1899



**Girls' Basketball team. The first team in St. Ansgar high school—date 1905
Left to right: Nina Peterson, Ruth Rusley, Alice Hegland, Katherine Peshak,
Leona Peshak, Hilma Vinje**

CLUBS

Early Clubs

The people of St. Ansgar have been a co-operative group, believing that organization can accomplish what individuals can not. Clubs have been organized when a need arose which could be taken care of by group organization. The task accomplished, the club often disbanded.

There was the drama club, organized in 1878, which apparently continued for some time. They met in McCarthy's hall, purchased scenery and a drop curtain, and gave a number of plays for the benefit of worthy causes. Proceeds from a temperance play, "The Last Loaf", bought much needed charts for the public school. Another time proceeds went for a cabinet to hold mineral specimens.

The following year lists a number of plays: "Laura the Pauper", "Among the Breakers", "Ten nights in a Bar-room", and "Above the Clouds".

In 1878 there was also organized a Literary Association. It, too, met in McCarthy hall. Important questions were discussed, for example: Resolved that children should be required by law to attend school six months of each year, between the ages of seven and fourteen." Chinese immigration,—Divorce,—Dancing (immoral) and other questions, vital at that time were discussed.

Social clubs thrived through the early years, even as now. The Social Club of 1894 on one occasion issued 100 printed invitations to a Shadow Ball.

There was the Sporting Club of 1888, and the Gun Club of 1896. The latter held their "shoots" south of "Hegland's house." (Dr. Brown and his sister now live on the old Hegland corner.) South of the corner was open country.

The business men have been ever mindful of community needs, and various organizations of business men have come and gone..

The Happy Hour Club

A little band of friends actuated by the same impulses, met at the home of Mrs. Josephine Schmidt one evening and talked over the possibilities of organizing a social club. The outcome of the meeting was the formation of a club thereafter known as the Happy Hour Club. It was organized in January, 1920.

Charter members are Mmes. Josephine Schmidt, Belle Albertson, Rush Culver, Merle Hume, Rose Mueller, and Velma Mueller. Mrs. Schmidt was the first president, and Mrs. Culver was the first secretary-treasurer.

As a social organization, the club has enjoyed many hours of fellowship together. There were the never-to-be-forgotten Christmas parties, the out-of-town lunches, the occasional farewell parties, and the potluck suppers.

While enjoying all of these good times, the members were not unmindful of those in need. We find them sending layettes to the Iowa Children's Home, jars of fruit or vegetables to those in need, contributions to Nissen Library, the Red Cross, a Samaritan Home, and the like.

The Happy Hour Club was instrumental in organizing the Progress club in 1924. Surely the H. H. C. has been worth while, and has many happy memories stored away.

*Friendship needs no symbol
Or vow to make it whole;
It's just a sacred covenant
That's locked within the soul.
It knows no creed or station,
Or thought of gain or fame,
For what it does is sacred,
And is done in Friendship's name*

The club now has fourteen members. The present officers are: president, Mrs. Minnie Hemphill; vice-pres., LaVonne Eggleston; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Myrtle Tollefson. M.T.

The Study Club

October 11th, 1920, a group of St. Ansgar women held a meeting for the pur-

pose of organizing a club to acquaint the newly-enfranchised citizens—the women—with their duties as voters, and to give them information regarding the general election to be held in November. The club was known as the Civic Club.

Shortly before the election, a public meeting was held at the Opera House where representative women of the three political parties having candidates on the ticket gave their views on the questions of the day. Another meeting was held a few days before the election, when speakers explained the ballot and the manner of voting.

Following the election, plans were made for the organization of a permanent club. This resulted in the formation of the Study Club, with fourteen charter members. The first formal meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Joe Cherney, Jan. 24, 1921. The general topic was "Iowa."

The first officers were: president, Anna Olsen; vice-president, Mrs. Victorine Cherney; secretary-treasurer, Mary Benson.

In 1922, the Club joined the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs.

A Club woman has been defined as "A woman who wishes to keep her brain active and alert through reading good books, hearing good lectures, and the matching of wits in stimulating discussions." This has been the aim of this club.

The study has covered a large variety of subjects, Better Speech, to improve our English; outstanding women of the world; American history, art, and nature study, topics of the day, book reviews. The club toured America through its literature.

Self improvement has not been the only aim of the Club. Contributions have been made to the Scholarship and Loan fund of the State Federation, and towels hemmed by the blind have been purchased each year. The club has participated in the various drives,—securing funds for the Red Cross, U. S. O., Relief work, Milk fund, Cancer Drive, and other worthy projects.

The Club sponsored a Junior Club, which developed into the present I. C. Club.

These clubs did a great deal to make

the Homecoming and Seventy-fifth Anniversary the happy success it was.

In 1946, the Study club and the Progress club were merged, to form the present "St. Ansgar Womens' Club," with 29 members. C.M.

Progress Club

In late 1923 or early 1924, some of the Happy Hour club members desired to belong to a federated club. Others did not wish to do so. As a result, a number of members organized the Progress Club, while still retaining membership in the Happy Hour club. The first meeting was at the home of Josephine Schmitt.

In 1946 the Progress club and the Study Club united to form the St. Ansgar Woman's Club.

The St. Ansgar Garden Club

IN A GARDEN

*May the inner strength of my garden give me
courage. . .
the dependability of my garden teach me
faith. . .
the joyous color of my garden fill my heart
with song. . .
and my Garden Vision unfold the wings of
My Spirit.*

A garden was more than a collection of plants to Mrs. Joe Cherney and Miss Emma Lane—for them a garden was a source of beauty, of joy, of quiet peace, truly a gift from God.

Because these two friends wanted to share these good things with others, the St. Ansgar Garden Club celebrates its seventeenth birthday in this centennial year. They knew the pleasure derived from a garden—Mrs. Cherney from her outstanding rock garden, Miss Lane from her wild flower garden, probably the most complete collection of wild flowers in this part of Iowa. It wasn't until they were guests at a lovely flower show sponsored by the Osage Naturalist Club that the inspiration came to have a Garden Club in St. Ansgar. They enthusiastically invited a group of ladies to attend a meeting at which Mrs. Cherney presided. Mrs. H. J. Baker of the Osage Naturalist Club and County Club

Chairman had been invited to be present to explain the aims of a Garden Club and how it could be organized. Committees to prepare for organization were named.

On March 24, 1936, the St. Ansgar Garden Club came into existence, a constitution was adopted, officers were elected, and the decision made to join the Federation of Woman's Clubs. In April 1940, its affiliation was changed to the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa. Mrs. Cherney served as the club's first president, Mrs. I. L. Wahl as vice-president, Mrs. O. A. Rosel as secretary-treasurer, and Emma Lane and Mrs. Albert Halverson on the executive committee.

"The object of this club shall be to promote an interest in gardening; to aid in the protection of native trees, plants, and birds; and to encourage civic plantings".—As we view the beautiful planting of trees and shrubs in the Highway 105 roadside park started in 1939, or see tourists enjoying a picnic in the roadside park on Highway 218 started in 1946, we realize how the public benefits from these two worthy club projects. The community also anticipates the club's annual flower show with much interest.

As for the Club members, there seems to be no limit to their individual fields of interests—be it landscaping, an all season garden or a specialty, such as, roses, mums, gladiolas, trees, birds, houseplants, wild flowers, flower arrangement, flower shows—local or state, community improvement, or the love for nature in general. Each member enthusiastically shares her ideas and experiences so all may benefit and be inspired to broaden their interests and add to their pleasures.

Each member willingly does her share, and in this centennial year of 1953 it is interesting to note that Mrs. I. L. Wahl, who was one of the original officers, is serving as Civic Chairman. Other officers now serving are: Mrs. William Neeley, president; Mrs. John Lund, vice-president; Mrs. E. E. Thompson, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Howard Belz and Mrs. Elling Torblaa, executive committee members.

"The few shall become many"—and many

have found the same beauty and peace, and nearness to God in their gardens that Mrs. Cherney and Emma Lane discovered before them. E.D.

The St. Ansgar Woman's Club

In 1946, the Progress Club and the Study Club decided to merge into one club. Accordingly, members met at the library the evening of May 28. Mrs. L. J. Vandermyde served as acting chairman, and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. John Lund; vice-president, Mrs. Charles West; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. O. L. Mueller. The name selected for the new organization was "The Woman's Club".

The first meeting was held Sept 26, 1946, at the home of Mrs. Luther Tollefson. The first gathering took the theme of an old fashioned meeting, members answering to roll call with old fashioned recipes, and each member wearing old fashioned clothing or jewelry.

The club is federated and participates in the projects of the federation, such as, helping with the scholarship fund, purchasing towels hemmed by the blind, and relief projects.

Members have participated in local drives for Red Cross, Cancer drive, and other similar projects.

Present officers are: President, Marian Boening; vice-president, Edna Peterson; secretary-treasurer, Myrtle Tollefson.

The program for 1952-53 entitled "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" was dedicated to, and inspired by the one hundredth birthday of St. Ansgar.

*Yesterday is but a Dream
And Tomorrow is only a vision,
But today,
Well lived, makes every Yesterday
A Dream of Happiness,
And every Tomorrow a vision of Hope*

Hyechka Federated Music Club

The Hyechka Federated Music Club of St. Ansgar was organized in November, 1952, (Hyechka—an Indian word for music) and became affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs the following month.

The object of the club is to foster and promote musical interests and to encourage

an appreciation for good music in the home and in the community.

The organization has had a very interesting and successful first year. Meetings have been held monthly at the homes of members, and the program has been presented each time by one or two members.

The first meeting in December featured Christmas music. The following programs have been devoted to the study of well known Operas and Musical Comedies and to the performance of selections from these; to American music and to the music of Chopin and Debussy.

Also, as is traditional in all federated music clubs, the members have joined each time in singing the Hymn of the Month, a hymn chosen by the National Federation and selected so that all three faiths are represented.

The club has open membership, and any woman who is able to sing or perform upon some musical instrument in accordance with the standards set up by the organization, or who is active musically in some other capacity, is eligible to become a member by application.

The club also maintains honorary membership. Honorary members are those who have attained musical eminence or who have rendered some special service to the cause of music.

The present officers of the club are: president, Miss Frances Peshak; vice-president, Mrs. Lawrence Boening; secretary, Mrs. Wayne Rucchel; treasurer, Mrs. Lloyd Ruchlow. F.P.

The I. C. Club

On March 18, 1936, the I. C. Club of St. Ansgar was organized as a Junior Club of the St. Ansgar Study Club. Angeline McKinley of the Study Club was chosen as sponsor by the nineteen young ladies who were charter members. "I. C. Club" was chosen as a name, the initials standing for "insight" and "concept."

The first officers were: president, Mildred Closs; vice-president, Dorothy Dusen-berg, secretary-treasurer, Gertrude Boening.

In 1953, the I. C. Club has thirty mem-

bers and a record of community service. Club members have co-operated in Red Cross, Cancer, and Christmas Seal drives many times in the last seventeen years. At one time, they had a benefit play and sponsored a movie,—the proceeds of which formed a fund to assist in establishing a tennis court.

The present officers are as follows: president, Mrs. Margaret Kleinwort, vice-president, Mrs. Bette Halvorson; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Lois Steinberg; historian, Mrs. Audrey McKinley. P. McK.

WaTanYe

WaTanYe is an Indian name for FOREMOST. It is a national women's organization dedicated to Service Work to each individual community and to Friendliness that characterizes every nationally organized WaTanYe club.

St. Ansgar women first joined WaTanYe in 1935, later surrendering its charter because many of their good members had left St. Ansgar. June 1 of this Centennial year, a re-chartering party was held for a group of St. Ansgar women who wished to reactivate its service work. WaTanYe of Albert Lea, Minn., was the hostess club and fourteen St. Ansgarites are now listed on the national WaTanYe role.

Officers of the club are: Mrs. Wilmer Dieterich, president; a former charter member, Miss Nellie Reiersen, vice-president; Mrs. Ben Mouw, secretary, and Mrs. Hirrell Dalluge, treasurer. R.J.T.

Lions Club

The first Lions Club in St. Ansgar was organized in 1929, and received its charter Oct. 29, of that year. The first officers were: president, H. F. Risse; secretary, B. T. Hegland; treasurer, Albert Halvorson; first vice-president, R. C. Mueller, second vice-president, J. P. Lund; third vice-president, Dan Sheehan; Lion Tamer, C. Edw. Miller; tail twister, C. P. Golberg.

The club's first project was an entertainment, proceeds of which went to swell the Auditorium fund, this being the first year in the new High School Building.

This club continued into the '30s, but was obliged to surrender its charter.

In December, 1942, Karl Ganote, of Winterset, organizer for Lions International, spent several days in St. Ansgar. He secured 26 membership pledges for a local Lions Club.

A meeting was held at which Mr. Ganote spoke briefly, then turned the meeting over to Roy Bailey of Mason City, district governor of Lions International. Officers were elected as follows: president, Irving Larson; vice-president, Dr. R. W. Rogers; secretary-treasurer, Oscar Mueller; Lion Tamer, the Rev. Wesley Belling; tail twister, Chas. West; directors, J. P. Lund, J. H. Calhoun, Elmer Houg, and R. P. Spencer.

Present officers of the club (elected to take office July 1 of this year) are: Keeper of the den, Ben W. Mouw; vice-president, Leroy Miller; secretary-treasurer, Elmer J. Houg; tail twister, Harold Wall; Lion Tamer, Edgar W. Callen; elected to the Board of directors, Royal Neeley and Rev. Rollin Oswald.

The St. Ansgar Lions have always been active in helping initiate and complete much needed community improvements, in encouraging Boy Scout work, Boy Scout Cubbing, 4-H, Soil Conservation, etc. During 1952, the club continued to sponsor the Cub Pack, sponsored both a minstrel show and a street sale to raise funds for the erection of a band shell which will be completed in time for the Centennial this June, and joined forces with others in many school and community projects.

C.M. and K.G.

Sportsman's Club

This club was organized in 1945. Meetings were held for three years in the rooms over the present Economy store. Directors appointed in 1945 were Alton Kettleson, Dr. E. K. Allen, and Waldo Wold. The first officers were: president, Oscar Rosel; vice-president, Harold Howe; secretary, Phil McKinley, treasurer, C. B. Galt.

In 1948, 37 acres of land on the river, were leased from Conrad Seaver, and a club house was built.

A charter membership of 37 has in-

creased to a present membership of sixty.

Present officers are: president, Leonard Cecil; vice-president, Mike Warrington; secretary-treasurer, Virl Deal; directors, Axel Hanson, Byron Calhoun, and Vern Cowell. E.E.

The American Legion

The Walter T. Enneberg Post of the American Legion held its first meeting in November, 1919, receiving its charter Aug. 1, 1920, with a total charter membership of 56. Oscar Schroeder was the first commander. At the present time, many charter members are still on the roll. Each year places new names there.

The Legion sponsors and promotes many worth while projects, among which are: sending a boy to Boys' State and helping in the Boy Scout movement. As an organization, they work for the advancement of those things which make for better citizenship. The following quotation from cards sent out by the Legion gives a picture of the ideals of the organization:

"Teach Children Religion for a Better Community.

Religion means Reverence—Obedience—Order

Irreligion means Chaos—Crime—Social Collapse.

Parents, Wake Up.

"No child has a chance who hasn't been taught to pray and love God. How about your children? American society may collapse for want of loyalty, decency, honesty, and unselfishness.

Americans,—Let's give them and America a new chance.

Teach Children Religion.

The present Commander of the Legion is Marvin Westrum; the Adjutant is Wayne Ruechel. E.E.

American Legion Auxiliary

The Walter T. Enneberg Unit No. 358 of the American Legion Auxiliary was organized in the fall of 1920 and held its first meeting in December of that year. Mrs. Nina Jackson was the first president and Mrs. Belle Albertson the first secretary. Mrs. Mease was vice-president and Irma Golberg treasurer. The charter was

framed and hung in the Legion Rooms in April, 1921. It listed the names of fifty-four members.

The main project of the Auxiliary is to aid the disabled veteran. Carpet rags are sewed and sent to the Veterans' hospitals to be used in their occupational Therapy Shop. Gifts are sent for the Christmas gift shop. Here the disabled veteran selects his gifts to send to the members of his family. A gift for the veteran himself is included and treats for the Christmas Party. This unit provides the carnival prizes for the Carnival at the Knoxville Veterans' Hospital. Each month twelve dozen cookies are baked by the serving committee and are sent to one of the Veterans' hospitals or to one of the Mental Health Institutes to be used as treats for the Veterans. Birthday parties are held once a month at all Veterans' hospitals and Mental Health Institutes. Because Independence Mental Health Institute is in our District, this unit sends talent once a year to entertain at the party.

Saturday before Memorial Day is Poppy Day. This unit distributes the poppies which are made by disabled veterans. The proceeds from their sale is used to pay the Veterans who make the poppies and for the material used and also for supplies, clothing and whatever is needed for the welfare of the veterans and their families. The unit also provides clothing for a dis-

abled veteran's child selected by the Department Office.

The unit community service project is to donate to the fund for the purchase of the new Legion Home. A \$5.00 T.B. bond is purchased and \$25.00 is given to the Girl Scout Organization each year. Last year the unit gave \$25.00 to the Tennis Court and Skating Rink Project.

Present officers are: Mrs. Della Larson, president, Mrs. Henry Nath, vice-president; Mrs. Don McKinley, 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Kenneth Libersky, secretary, Mrs. Elmer Houg, treasurer. D.L.

Patriotic Loyalty

Patriotic loyalty was one of the outstanding characteristics of the pioneers. They appreciated this new land and the privileges it offered. When the Civil War called for men to defend the Union, many of these pioneers answered the call.

The Rev. Clausen responded quickly and served as Chaplain until his health compelled him to return home. Many others went—some in the ranks and some as officers. On Memorial Day in appreciative memory, the people place a flower on the graves of these patriots. This roll includes Patterson, Wardell, Allen, Rowland, McKinley, Fritcher, McCullough, Clyde, Smith, Thompson, Lane, Bundy, Delaney, Culver, Dykeman, Rust, Lang, Groner, Steinberg, Hulse, and perhaps others.

When the war with Spain came, the



July 4th Celebration of 1902 showing the beautiful Lubiens garden, far side of the street



Memorial Day Float

Standing, left to right: Charles Sherman, Supt. J. P. Lund, Teachers seated, Mrs. Victorine M. Cherney, Mrs. Jennie F. Kirkman, Miss Nina Gibbons, Mrs. Ehtel M. Bliss. Faces identified, in the top row: Hilma Vinje, Grace Fulton, Alice Hegland, Agnes Miller, Abigail Dodge, Lila Dodge, Matie Pierson. Next row: Belle Burroughs, Irma Lubiens, Sarah Lang, Eva Thompson, Esther McCollough. Next row: May Havig, Emma Dreher, Florence Moe, Nellie Thompson, Mabel Whiteman. Bottom: Ruth Moe, Margaret Hegland, Agnes Bakken, Esther Moe.

call was not as urgent. M. Christianson enlisted and served until the war ended when he returned home. F. E. Conca and H. H. Moeller were veterans of this war.

In World War I the men and women of the community were not lacking in patriotic loyalty, St. Ansgar's honor roll contains the names of the grandchildren of many of the early settlers. More than a hundred names are on this roll. Gerhard Hartwig, G. Tangen, Walter Enneberg, and A. Franzen made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

The last quarter of St. Ansgar's century of life has been filled with wars and rumors of war. St. Ansgar has been called upon to make many sacrifices and the end is not yet. The world is in a turmoil of strife. All peace loving nations, of which the United States is one, are striving through the United Nations to end war once and for all and the people of St. Ansgar are doing all they can to promote this noble ideal. At this writing several of our young

men have returned home from Korea and daily, we wait word that a peace treaty has been signed.

A large number of our young men have been called into active service these last twenty-five years. As always when war calls, many must make the supreme sacrifice. Merle Ogden, Melvin Schroeder, Dale Coonrad, Hartley Slaichart, Max Berg, Helmer Hobbs, and Keith Young gave their all for their country.

E.L.

LODGES

Odd Fellows

On Sept. 13, 1877, St. Ansgar lodge of Odd Fellows No. 370 was duly authorized with the following officers: C. K. Martin, Noble Grand; S. R. Moody, Vice-Grand, W. J. Carson, secretary; and Joe Detling, treasurer.

After the institution of the lodge, the group proceeded to the Dykeman Hotel where supper was served. Then they re-

turned to the hall, and the following members were initiated: S. A. Emerson, G. F. Barker, F. C. Fleming, and J. M. McCaffrey.

J. M. McCaffrey, S. R. Moody, and G. F. Barker were elected trustees.

During the time the lodge was in operation, the following were members: Geo. F. Barker, Wm. J. Carson, S. W. Cook, Lucious Cole, C. O. Coates, Jos. Detling, John M. Dahl, Sumner A. Emerson, Frank C. Fleming, Clinton R. Green, Jas. R. Graham, Wm. B. Joy, Samuel O. Leen, S. R. Moody, Floyd J. McCaffrey, Chas. K. Martin, G. W. McCullough, John Oleson, Thomas Smith, Fred J. Starr, W. C. Smith, Wm. A. Thomas, A. M. Tollefson, and Wm. Wagner.

The lodge surrendered its charter in 1883. B.G.

Masonic Lodge

On July 15, 1868, a dispensation was granted for the establishing of Concord Lodge No. 243, at St. Ansgar, Iowa. A charter was granted June 2, 1869. Following are the names of the first officers, and other charter members: J. B. Williams, W. M. ; Levi Nash, S. W.; Samuel Stubbs, J. W.; T. W. Keely, treasurer; T. W. Thurston, secretary; H. J. Rowland, S. D.; O. Rogers, J. D.—Henry Lubiens, R. Helfritz, E. C. Lubiens, and James Parlien.

The charter was surrendered in May, 1881, and Masons of St. Ansgar have associated themselves with the Osage unit. B.G.

Knights of Pythians

Utopia Lodge No. 430, located at St. Ansgar was organized May 25, 1896, with first officers as follows: A. D. Bundy, Chancellor Commander; Jacob Closz, Vice-chancellor; J. E. Vance, Prelate; George Tollefson, Master of Work; G. H. Bartoo, Keeper of Records and Seals; A. P. Goldberg, Master of Finance; C. J. Colbertson, Master of exchequer; C. T. Tollefson, master of arms; W. W. Lang, inside guard; C. Enneberg, outside guard. The trustees were A. N. Lund, Chris Fedson and Wm. Gregg.

The lodge was discontinued and the charter turned in the late 20's or the early '30s.

A strong Pythian Sister organization continued for some time after the K. P. was discontinued. In time, they too ceased to function.

In autumn 1917, K.P. membership was 57. C.M.

Modern Woodmen of America

Former camp M. W. A. No. 2449 at St. Ansgar, Iowa was chartered Aug. 14, 1894, with the following officers and charter members:

Consul, L. G. McKinley; adviser, Ziba Gifford; banker, K. Dahl; clerk, Dr. S. Johnson; escort, George Featherstone, watchman, Nicholas Clausen; sentry Erick Anderson; physician, Dr. S. Johnson; managers, Myron Cummings, Anthony Miller, and George E. McCurdy.



Social Occasion in Pythian Hall about 1917

Other members were V. Pearson, John Featherstone, and Knute Larson.

The St. Ansgar local camp was consolidated with camp No. 250, Osage, Iowa, Oct. 13, 1943. C.M.

BUSINESSMEN'S CLUBS

The Business Men's Ass'n which was organized in 1897 promoted many projects for the community's good. Officers were: president, Martin Moe; vice-president, J. F. Koch; secretary, Jacob Closz; treasurer, O. O. Donhowe.

The Commercial Club of 1917 sponsored a Chautauqua, a lecture course, a fair, a watch-meeting, farmer's Institute, dairy meetings, and had charge of the Memorial Day exercises.

There was an active Community Club in the '20s

In 1939 the Commercial Club numbered 85 members. They purchased the loud speaker system for basketball tournaments, sponsored the Athletic Field, were instrumental in establishing R.E.A. headquarters in St. Ansgar, joined with school and city council in band support, and in community Christmas events.

St. Ansgar Chamber of Commerce

In December, 1946, a meeting of business men was held in Falk's hall for the purpose of organizing a Chamber of Commerce. The organization was effected and the following elected as the first officers: president, Leland Larson; vice-president, C. A. Thacher; secretary, Albert Halvorson; board members, S. J. Wilson, H. M. Burke, Walter Moe, Oscar Rosel, M. A. Houg.

Incorporation was approved Aug. 9, 1947.

Present officers are: president, Don McKinley; vice-president, Art Hollatz; treasurer, Chase Wescott; secretary, Wayne Ruechel.

Activities of the organization include a summer recreation program for young and old, Farmer-Merchant banquet, completion of the tennis courts, fly control program, Christmas program, annual banquet for business men, and various other activities.

AMUSEMENTS

McCarthy's Hall

In the spring of 1937, there disappeared from our main street one of the town's oldest landmarks. It had played a prominent part in the early social life of the community. We refer to McCarthy's Hall.

Built in 1870, it stood first on the present site of the Champlin Oil station, and was used for a pool hall down stairs, and a broom factory up stairs, the latter operated by Richard Townsend.

In 1875, the building was purchased by D. F. McCarthy and was moved to the lot, now vacant, between Eggleston's cafe and the Allied Service. The upstairs was fitted up for an amusement hall, the down stairs for business purposes. In the early '80s the hall was converted into living quarters. J. F. Koch purchased the building in 1888.

Business concerns that have occupied the first floor include John Olson's Dry Goods, the Candy Kitchen, several cafes,—proprietors of which were Messrs. Vanderpool, Leach, Starr, and Eggleston. Wesley Eggleston took over the cafe in 1924, and continued in that location until 1932, when he moved one door east to the location where he has been until this spring of '53.

The building was torn down in 1937, and the lumber used for other purposes. C.M.

The Old Opera House

If this old building could talk, it would tell of countless community affairs held within its walls. Until the present High school was erected, all commencements were held here for the eighth grade, the High school and for the Seminary.

Times without number the stage has rung with the voices of children in school plays or operettas.

Here, too, the different church societies held their big suppers, their bazaars, their farewells for pastors, community Christmas trees, and the like.

Lecture courses, political rallies, farmer's institutes, all held forth from this platform, It could even boast of a public wedding!

Theatrical troops found facilities here that must have been pleasing to them. Some of them played here, not once nor twice, but several times through the years. Of these we mention two,—the Warner Comedy Co., and the Billy Marble Co. Older residents may remember also the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Co. dispensing their Kickapoo Indian oil and Kickapoo Indian Sagwa, remedies later handled in local drug stores.

For many years, St. Ansgar had its own Dramatic Club and put on many home talent plays under the management of O. H. Koch.

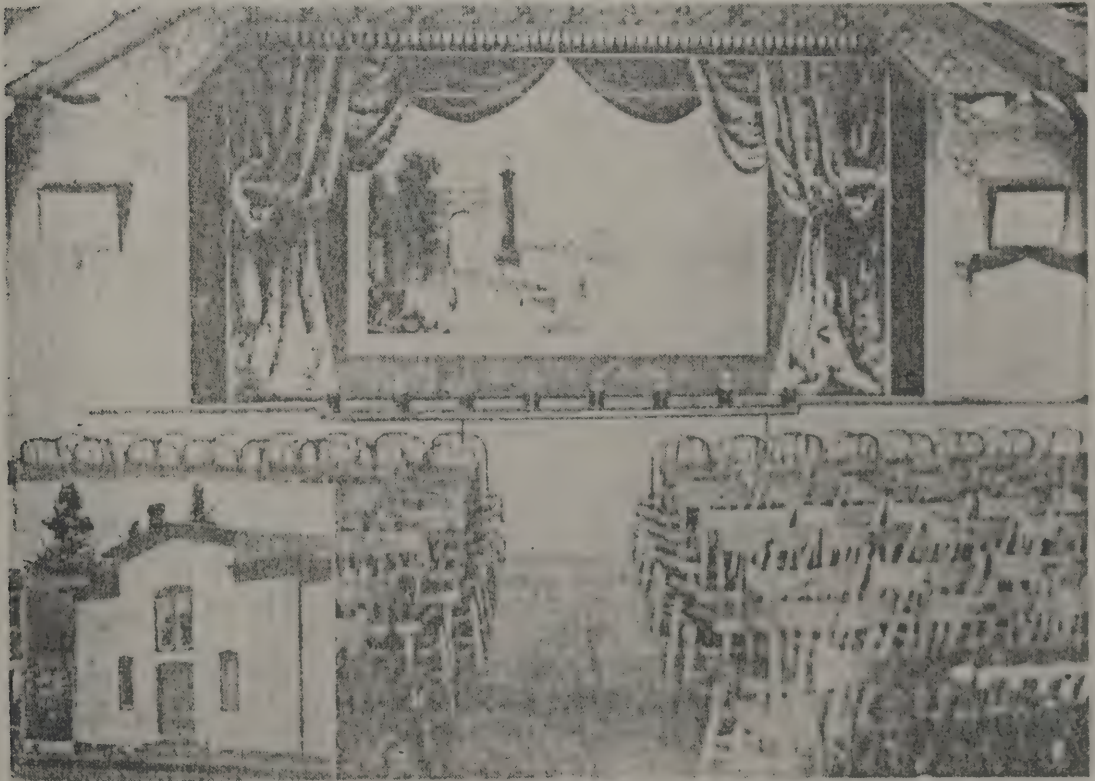
Amusements of a lighter sort, skating parties, dancing clubs, masquerades, and the like, used the ever-ready hall.

The present Bowers Recreation hall is the old opera house. It was built in 1884 by R. C. Lubiens and J. F. Koch for use as a skating rink. Seven years later O. H. Koch became the sole owner. He added twenty feet to the building in order to make room for stage and scenery.

Five changes of scenery were made by Sosman and Landis of Chicago, and the hall was opened as an opera house Sept. 4th., 1895.

In 1907, the building was equipped for silent movies. As such, it was managed successively by LaForest Sherman, Adelbert Sherman, and L. C. Moe.

When it was found that the building could not be used for sound films, Mr. Koch, in 1930, sold it to Otto Wilke, who remodeled it for use as a Recreation hall, as it is today. C.M.



The Old Opera House. Built for a skating rink in 1884. Remodeled for an opera house in 1895. Silent movies in 1907. Now a Recreation Hall.

BAND BENEFIT
 Home talent play
 cast, 1904. Title, "Ha-
 zel Kirk." Standing
 left to right, Mamie
 Moe, Chris Brogmus,
 Clara Dodge, A.
 Bruner, Frances Va-
 cha.
 Seated: Ervin McCol-
 lough, Prof. Mellem,
 May Peshak, Anna
 Lovestrom, O s c a r
 Koch, Mgr.



The Roxy Theater

The Roxy Theater, the first and only sound movie in St. Ansgar, was built in 1937, with a seating capacity of 372. The installation was synchronphonic sound, at that time the latest development in sound production.

On opening night, Aug. 4, 1937, the picture was "Meet the Boy Friend", with David Carlyle and Carol Hughes. The estimated crowd for the evening was 1,000 persons. The first ushers were Katherine Ellingson and Lucille Shook.

In 1951 a new sound system, the Sound Master, was installed, and in 1952 a new type screen and stage border were added. The new screen employs synchronous lighting all around the picture, the light being in direct proportion to the brightness of the picture. This type screen creates more restful pictures for the eyes, and increases the realism of the picture.

And now, more improvements! A drive-in theater for cars, yes, and for airplanes, two miles north west of St. Ansgar, is in the process of construction on the Leon Thorson farm at the landing field of our movie-master, Harlan Anderson.

This theater will have the latest and finest in projection and sound equipment,



The Roxy Theatre, built in 1937

with a screen 50 ft. wide. This will be another celebration event for St. Ansgar's Centennial,—the first town of its size to have such a theater.

Much of the construction work has been done by Mr. Anderson himself. The L. R. Falk employees have graded the field and the principal cement block building is being completed by Smalley and Ralph of Osage..

DISASTERS

The Drowning of 1888

From the files of the St. Ansgar Enterprise of April 11th. 1888, we quote in regard to a tragic accident that took the lives of four boys of prominent families:

"The high stage of the water in the Cedar River and tributary streams naturally attracted the attention of our citizens. At 4:30 in the afternoon, a crowd of young men returned to town for a conveyance to take them to Newburg, at which point the river was said to present a most startling sight. Thirteen young men drove out of town on their way to Newburg. As they approached Turtle creek, they found that the stream had broken its banks and had spread over the lowlands on both sides. They attempted to reach the bridge, but when three rods from it, the wagon tipped, the team stopped, then in attempt to plunge forward, fell, and in another moment the wagon-load of humanity was plunged into the seething water. Several managed to get hold of the tops of willow trees and were saved, but four of the crowd met a watery death. They were Frank Bundy, Frank Rhames, Isaac Lovestrom, and Andrew Golberg."

The Tornado of 1894

One of the worst cyclones that ever passed through northern Iowa occurred on the night of Sept. 21, 1894. It followed up

the Cedar River, and the Newburg bridge was completely carried away. The heavy iron rods were carried ten rods up stream. The Newburg mill was moved ten feet off its foundation.

The storm then moved north-east and struck the T. M. Tollefson farm. Although the house was not badly damaged, the out buildings were completely demolished. At the A. M. Tollefson farm the cyclone did its worst. The newly built farm house was carried away bodily about a rod. It struck a tree and was completely demolished. All out buildings were destroyed, fowl killed, and many trees uprooted.

The H. A. Groth farm was next in its path. Here the house, granary, and other buildings were completely wrecked. North of the Groth farm, the storm hit at A. T. Tollefson's where it spared the house but took everything else in its path.

Turning east, it moved on to the farms of H. H. Knutson, H. P. Hanson, Wm. Bernt, F. Zacharda and Wm. Duenow. Their homes were spared, but most of the other buildings were total wrecks.

Much livestock was killed, but no human lives were lost. M.M.

Fire of 1924

The worst fire that has ever occurred in St. Ansgar, happened on the morning of Nov. 16th., 1924, when four of the best



The Andrew Tollefson Farm Home after the Destructive Tornado of 1894

Picture taken one hour
after the airplane
crash of 1934 killed
five persons



business houses went up in smoke.

The fire started in the meat market, and when it apparently was under control, an ammonia drum exploded and started it anew. It soon spread to the Wold hardware, Dahl and Schroeder furniture store, and R. C. Mueller's City Cafe.

The Wold family living over the hardware store barely escaped with their lives.

All four structures have been rebuilt, brick buildings taking the place of frame. At present they are occupied by the Rosel Hardware, Schroeder and Houg furniture, Dalluge's Red Owl market, and R. C. Mueller's tavern. (Pictured elsewhere in this book.)

Explosion of 1929

Later, within a period of five years, St. Ansgar was rocked by two more catastrophes. The first in the morning of Sept. 21, 1929, when the Parker service station on West Main Street was the scene of an explosion. Without a moment's warning, a terrific blast blew the station thirty feet into the air, broke windows a block away, damaged the Nissen library, and killed three people. Those who lost their lives were C. O. Parker and Henry Zimmering of St. Ansgar, and Doris Conklin of Mitchell. Mrs. Zimmering, who was sitting in their car, was severely injured and passed away a year later.

M.M.

Airplane Crash of 1934

On July fourth, 1934, while the town was in the midst of a community celebration, an air-plane, that had been taking up passengers all afternoon, crashed about five o'clock P.M., two blocks east of the railroad and two blocks south of main business street, a few feet from the apartment house now belonging to Lydia Brogmus. The plane carried four passengers, all of whom were killed. They were brothers, Ed and Van Libersky of St. Ansgar, and Gladys Ueker and Marvin Miller of Grafton. The pilot, Fred Symington, of Ackley, Iowa was also killed. In a few moments, hundreds of persons gathered and watched helplessly while sixty gallons of gasoline carried by the plane, exploded, making rescue impossible.

M.M.

IOWA CENTENNIAL

Eight years before Rev. Clausen established St. Ansgar, Iowa was admitted to the Union as a state. Eight years ago, in 1946, Iowa celebrated its 100th anniversary of state-hood. St. Ansgar was happy to take part in this event honoring our Iowa. It was homecoming for many St. Ansgarites, but just remembering for many more. Old treasures were displayed in every window on Main street. Reunions of old friends, programs, sports, yes,—old times, good times, and remembering were stressed; a parade of old things competing with new things,—and, which won the popularity contest was a question.

ST. ANSGAR'S 75th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING

June 17, 18, 19, 1928

No event of the past years has been more outstanding than the St. Ansgar home-coming of 1928. No pains were spared to make the occasion a complete success. Ideal weather marked the whole three days. Nothing occurred to mar the occasion in any way.

The first day's program, Sunday June 17, consisted of special service at the churches in the morning, registration of homecomers in the afternoon, the address of welcome by Rev. Paul Brammer, and responses by Hon. C. W. Clausen (son of the founder of St. Ansgar), Hon. O. F. Guuderson and Mr. W. W. Getts.

A concert by the St. Ansgar band, Harry B. Keeler directing, completed the afternoon program.

Sunday evening was left open for visiting or such services as the churches wished to have.

A formal program Monday morning consisted of music by a ladies' chorus; a tribute to Rev. Clausen by the Rev. Sigurd Olson; vocal solo by Rev. O. A. Langehough; an address by the Rev. M. E. Waldeland of Northfield, Minn.

The big feature of Monday afternoon was the pageant, held on the east bank of the Cedar river, near the power house, in which the early life of St. Ansgar was depicted by 125 performers under the di-

rection of Miss Whitaker of Minneapolis, assisted by Mrs. Nina Jackson. The pageant showed the arrival of the colonists at St. Ansgar and the trials and tribulations that beset them. Indian braves approached in boats and landed on the scene, causing consternation among the newcomers.

Music for the occasion was furnished by an orchestra under the direction of Dr. R. W. Rogers, St. Ansgar dentist.

It was a celebration to be remembered by the estimated 3,000 people who crowded the banks of the river. It is said that at least 2,000 cars were parked in the vicinity of the pageant.

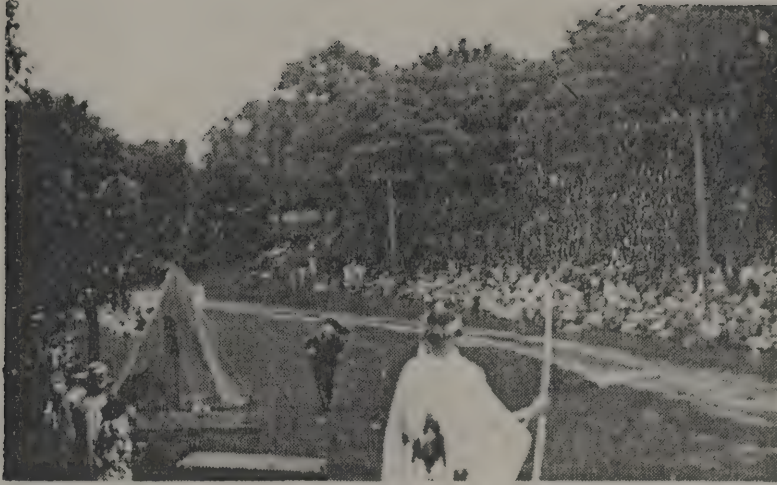
One of the big features of Tuesday's program was the parade of beautiful floats in the morning, just before the program in the city park. The formal program consisted of band music; a piano solo by Freda Zemanek; an address by Geo. H. Sawyer and reminiscences by former residents.

Ball games and auto rides occupied the afternoon. At five o'clock there was a barbecue, and in the evening, a band concert.

The roast ox for the barbecue was prepared by Peter Becker of Garner, who roasted it in a small shed into which live steam from a threshing machine engine was forced. It took ten hours to roast the ox. Several thousand sandwiches were made from the meat, which were served free, together with pickles and coffee. C.M.



Featured in the 75th Anniversary Parade. Sign on Illinois Central engine—"In continuous service from December, 1863, until today."



Scene at the 75th Anniversary. The "Spirit of St. Ansgar" speaks in dramatic episode.

The Indian Brave, in the 75th Anniversary pageant.



Part of the crowd who witnessed the pageant at 75th Anniversary

OLD SETTLERS REUNION

During the forenoon of Sept. 15, 1910, one could see teams heading towards St. Ansgar from every direction. Soon, the streets were crowded with people. The fine decorations gave the appearance of a Fourth of July celebration.

A program in the park at ten o'clock consisted of an address of welcome by Mayor Odegaard, an address by the honorable D. D. Murphy of Elkader, and music by the St. Ansgar band.

Ball games at the *new* athletic park,, and street sports occupied the afternoon.

Displays of grain, vegetables, etc. were to be seen in the *new* garage. There were 22 corn exhibits, 9 of wheat, 12 exhibitors of eggs, 12 of fancywork.

A long list of premiums included one to Mrs. S. J. Peshak for the best cake, also to J. P. Lund, (for the best single driver) \$3 worth of "shoeing, plow or wood work".

THE 95th ANNIVERSARY

The ninety-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. Ansgar was fittingly observed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 30, 31, and Aug. 1, 1948.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the three-day celebration brought ideal weather, a large crowd, and an inspiring program.

Friday activities included a baseball game in the afternoon, and a stage show and carnival in the evening.

Saturday's program started at 1 a.m. with the grand parade, featuring some outstanding floats, and including three bands, namely: St. Ansgar, Osage, and the Rochester Rube band. A doll cab parade was also an interesting feature.

A recorded interview of Thursday afternoon was broadcast by KGLO at 11:30.

Saturday afternoon baseball again held public attention,—Lyle vs. St. Ansgar. At two o'clock a varied musical program was presented in the park. It included community singing, flute solos by Burl Payne; Joan Halvorson, Soprano, and Ludwig Wangberg, French horn; and selections by a Ladies' sextet, including Mmes. Eggleston, Perau, Thacher, Carlson, Nitardy, and Miss Clare Moe. Accompanists were Frances Peshak and Mrs. R. Spencer. At 4 p.m. a high school Alumni meeting was held in the High school music room, about 100 alumni attending. Rob Roy Cherney of Mason City, a former graduate, addressed the group.

Carnival and side shows operated all day.

Church reunions were the order for Sunday morning. The afternoon brought a special program, when our city park was dedicated and given the name of "Clausen Memorial Park". The dedication address was given by Dr. T. T. Gullickson of St. Paul, President of Luther Theological Seminary.

A band concert under the leadership of Ludwig Wangberg followed the address, and baseball at 3:30,—Little Cedar vs. St. Ansgar—completed the official program.

C.M.

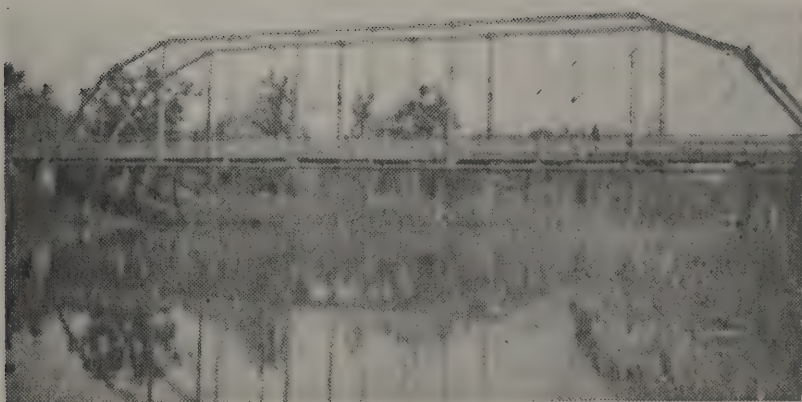


Full Parking Space at the 75th Anniversary Pageant



St. Ansgar Mill

End View of St. Ansgar Bridge



Bridge West of
St. Ansgar

St. Ansgar Business Directory

June 4, 1953

Adams Mobil Service Glenn Adams, Owner
Allen, Dr. E. K. Dentist
Alibi Inn, Tavern, . . . Harry and Lucille Thorson
Owners

Allied Service Corporation, Insurance and Business
Service, Wayne A. Ruechel, President

Bernstein Hardware Adolph Mueller, Manager
Bower's Recreation Wm. C. Bowers, Owner
Bree's Co-op Station Elmer Bruesewitz, owner
Button's Standard Service . . . Merrill Button, Prop.
Bus Service Lloyd Hanson
Co-op Electric, REA . . . L. J. Vendermyde, Man.
Co-op Oil Company Lawrence Rosenberg
Tank Wagon Service

Central Iowa Telephone Company Merritt Bea-
man, Manager—Della Assorson

Churches

Catholic Father Mac Donald
Father Conroy

First Lutheran Rev. O. A. Langehough

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Rev. H. C.
Wolters

Methodist Rev. Rollin Oswald

Dr. W. L. Dockstader Veterinarian

Deal's Barber & Beauty Shop Virl and Betty
Deal, Owners

Dieterich's Motel W. P. Dieterich—Owner

Dieterich's Champlin Art Dieterich
Tank Wagon Service

D—X Tank Wagon Service Lloyd Hanson

Economy Store Harold Wall, Proprietor

East End Grocery Harland & Cleo Libersky,
Owners

L. R. Falk Quarries L. R. Falk, Owner
Crushed Rock and Lime

Farmer's Poultry Service Alva (Pete) Chancellor,
Owner

Gamble Store Alfred Jordan, Owner

German Farmers Mutual Insurance Co.
Art Kronneman, Secretary

Gilbertson, Josephine Weaving

Griswold's Watch Hospital J. W. Griswold,
Owner

G & M Implement Gaylen & Marlin
Kittleson, Owners

Hormel Buying Station H. A. Sayles,
Manager

Hanson Radio & TV Marlin Hanson, Owner

Arthur Hollatz Carpenter

Dr. Robert S. Irwin Osteopathic Physician

Interstate Power Co. Jay Coon, Manager

August Janzow Carpenter

Arthur Janzow Carpenter

Kittleson Barber Shop S. R. Kittleson, Owner

Klindt Hotel Marie E. Wilke,
Proprietor

Larson's Grocery J. Leland Larson, Owner

Harold Libersky Repair Shop Harold Libersky,
Owner

Leraaen's Shoe Shop Halvor Leraaen, Owner .

Marly's Beauty Shop Marlys Moore,
Owner—Operator

Miller's Food Store LeRoy Miller, Owner

H. L. McKinley & sons Chevrolet & Implements

Miner's Cafe Marvin & Pat Miner, Owners

Mouw's Real Estate Agency Ben W. Mouw,
Manager

John Markow Carpenter

Nelson Lockers & Food Russell Nelson
Operator

Olson Drug Store Allan M. Olson, Owner

Dr. W. E. Owen Physician

Olson Warehouse, Produce Palmer Olson,
Owner

Post Office C. Edward Miller, Postmaster

Pine Hill Dairy Luther Tollefson, Owner

Roll's Coffee Shop D. O. & Hilda Roll,
Owners

Ruth's Cafe Borge & Ruth Schlegel,
Managers

Red's Place, Tavern Morris Ellingson,
Owner

Red Owl Agency Hirrel & Lila Dalluge
Owners

Roxy Theater H. A. Anderson
Proprietor

Rosel Hardware Wilmer Rosel, Proprietor

Dr. R. W. Rogers, Dentist

Rosie's Sinclair Service Raymond Rosenberg,
Manager

August M. Ruechel Carpenter

St. Ansgar Electric Creston A. Wells &
Kenneth Harding, Owners

St. Ansgar Grain & Feed Claire Brasch &
Curtis Taylor, Owners

Schroeder & Houg Furniture & Funeral
Oscar Schroeder, Monrad Houg, Directors

Wm. Slaichert Repair, sales & blacksmith

Standard Oil Tank Wagon Service Oscar Rosel

St. Ansgar Mills S. A. Kleinwort & son,
Operators

Elmore Sandberg Mill Work Shop

St. Ansgar Plumbing & Heating Hans Borsheim,
Owner

St. Ansgar Enterprise Kerbert Gjertson, Owner

St. Ansgar Citizen State Bank Albert Halvorson,
President

St. Ansgar Lumber Co. Lloyd Koch, Owner
Howard Belz, Manager

St. Ansgar Implement Co. Ward Champion,
Owner

St. Ansgar Sales Barn Byron Calhoun,
Owner

Town Talk Cafe Leona Mareks, Proprietor

Dr. Robert W. Van Nice Veterinarian

Wald's Champlin Service Waldo Wold

West Brothers, Clothiers Charles West

Westrem Electric Service Marvin Westrem,
Owner

Westenberger, Dr. J. C., M. D.

CONTRIBUTORS

The following persons have made this book possible by their contributions of pictures or historical material:

Alfred Assorson
 Mary Benson
 Mrs. Selma Brandt
 G. O. Brenna
 Cora Bundy
 Dr. Carlteon Culmsee
 Mrs. Elaine Dieterich
 Chas. Dale
 Mrs. Enneberg
 Elvina Erickson
 Nellie Gilbertson
 K. Gjertson
 Byron Golberg
 Anton Groth
 Gus Gunderson
 Albert Halvorson
 Clara Halvorson
 Chas Hageman
 Mrs. Lena Halvorson
 Mrs. Blanche Hansen
 Mrs. Alphild Houg
 Mrs. Mamie Hume
 Mrs. Della (Kittleson) **Larson**
 Mrs. Ila Kittleson
 Josephine Gilbertson

O. H. Koch
 A. W. Kroneman
 Emma Lane
 J. P. Lund
 Naomi Lubiens
 Clare Moe
 Mrs. Phil McKinley
 Mamie Moe
 W. A. Moe
 LaVerne Michaels
 Mrs. Elsie Nelson
 Palmer C. Olson
 Mrs. Leola Reuhlow
 Rena Jean Tesch
 Wayne Reuchel
 Dr. R. W. Rogers
 Mrs. Vera Seaver
 Rena Jean Tesch
 Elling Torblaa
 Myrtle Tollefson
 Mrs. Mildred Tesch
 Blanche Thorson
 Mrs. Rose Wahl
 Mr. L. J. Vandermyde
 Frances Peshak



Historical Committee in Charge of this Publication. Seated about one of the tables in the Nissen Library, left to right: Miss Emma Lane, Miss Clara Moe, Miss Elvina Erickson, John P. Lund, Anton Groth and K. M. Gjertson.

Centennial Program, June, 1953

Friday A.M.

9:00 Registration begins in the Allied Service Building.

11:00 Childrens' Parade—10 years old and under Decorate your bicycles, tricycles, wagons, cars, tractors, etc.; Innovations of any nature welcomed. PRIZES!

Friday P.M.

1:00 Sports Program for school age boys and girls at the Athletic Field

Foot Racing

Sack Racing

Egg Throwing

Tug of War

This is just a few of the contests to be held. PRIZES!

2:00 Old Timers' Ball Game—Athletic Field

Town vs. Country

2:30 Concert by St. Ansgar Band—Clausen Memorial park.

4:00 Parade

Friday Night

8:30 Pageant—A Semi-Historical Pageant recreating dramatic moments in St. Ansgar's coming to birth through the centuries, and its rise to eminence in Iowa as an American community.

Depicted in Pageant pantomime and narration, with players' dialogue voiced from behind scenes by the Narrator, and backgrounded with music from the Masters.

Adapted from historical documentaries and imagination and dramatized in pantomime pageantry for the Centennial observance of St. Ansgar, Iowa's, birth.

Enacted by the men and women, boys and girls of the community of St. Ansgar.

Saturday A.M.

10:00 School Reunion

Saturday Noon

Saturday P.M.

1:30 Master of ceremonies—Rev. O. A. Langehough.

Centennial Chorus under the direction of Miss Clare Moe

Address of Welcome, Mayor Wilmer Dietrich

Introduction of speaker—By Harold L. McKinley

Address, George Grim, Minneapolis, Minn.

Presentation and acceptance of the First Settler's Plaque

4:00 Parade

Saturday Night

8:30 Pageant

9:00 Dancing for young and old

Judging of the whiskers

Sunday Morning

Special services in all churches.

Sunday Afternoon

2:00 Special program in Clausen Memorial Park with Dr. T. F. Gullixson, President of Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, delivering the historical address.

2:45 Concert in park by Mason City Municipal Band, including rendition of special centennial march composed for the occasion by Dr. R. W. Rogers of St. Ansgar.

3:30 Baseball game at the Athletic Field.

L.M.



New Band Shell in Clausen Memorial Park



McCarthy Family. Influential in an early day—in '70s. Fifteen children in family. Mr. McCarthy active in grain trade and in milling.

Horse and Buggy
days shortly after
1900



Ringling Bros. Circus
1882 or 1883



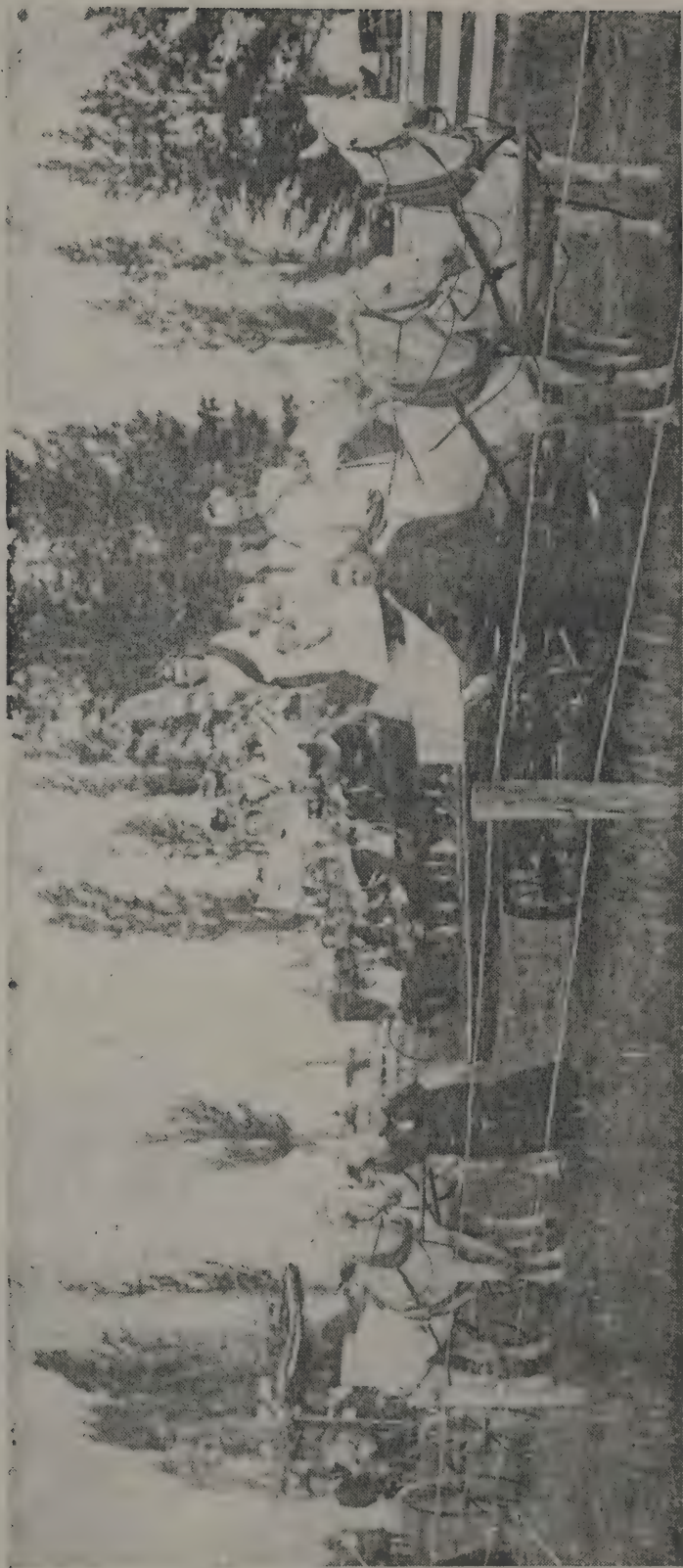
Mrs. Mary Rapp
 Always very active on patriotic occasions—
 especially Memorial Day



A. J. Clausen
 Photographer, Painter, Plasterer,
 Phrenologist



Palmer Otson Warehouse. Thousands of bushels of all kind of fruits and vegetables have been sold through this, both wholesale and retail



Memorial Day celebrations were observed as very important occasions as long as Mrs. Rapp lived. Always there was a hayrack well filled with women and children and well decorated with the flag and with bunting. The surrey to the left of the picture may be conveying members of "The Eligibles" club, who often rode in this style. In the surrey this time, however, may be Civil War veterans and their wives or widows.

Identified in the picture above are: Mrs. Rapp, standing at the head of the horses; Charlie Sherman (grandfather to Claire Carson), standing in front of the float; on the float—(we hope you'll be able to get the names of many more), Allie Hylden, Lloyd Koch, Irving or Artie Thompson, Oliver Bakken, Esther McCullough, and others.



Street Scene 1953



Public School Board 1953

Left to right: Supt. C. Hageman, L. J. Vandermyde, Carl Kittleson, Curtis Taylor, Arthur Hollatz, S. R. Kittleson, and LaVerne Michaels



Old Kjer residence showing an old "town pump"



M. E. Sunday School Class

Standing, left to right: Pickell, Lizzie Medin, Lizzie Patterson, Kate Closz, Mary Closz, Mamie Hume, Irene Yeomans
Seated: Pearl McKinley, Eda Allen, Lou McCulla, Matie Fulton, Adeline Lund



Power House at Newburg



Round House at Mona



Switching terminal at Mona



Rev. T. W. Thurston
Farmer. Early Methodist Pastor



Mrs. T. W. Thurston

Do You Remember When?

Enormous steam engines used to run threshing machines and a tank man was needed to keep the engine supplied with water. It was a 3 or 4 a.m. job to start the fire (using coal, but sometimes wood) so the steam pressure would be up at eight o'clock. The threshing machine needed, besides the crew of today, band cutter and feeders.

The Kickapoo Indians put on a week of shows under the management of Dr. Long. Incidentally Indian medicines were sold as a side line.

St. Ansgar had a town pump with a wooden water trough for the thirsty horses that came to town?

When the beautiful Lubien's garden grew where the Post Office, the Bank, the Beauty Shop and the Electric Shop stand today, roses nodded over the fence along the walk at passers by.

St. Ansgar had two harness shops. Ole Syverud's on North Main and John Vacha's on South Main Street.

Hovel Smith was our richest native son as he piled up copper stock of Arizona.

Halvor Blakestad was a fiddler of fame,



Sister Caroline Thompson
Missionary to Africa. Lost life on return trip to her mission when boat was torpedoed within sight of land.

playing in the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra.

A young man to cut a dash as a stylish beau must wear a mustache. Ranking high in this stylish adornment were Robert Lubien's, Tom Groth, Rev. Waldeland, Martin Moe, George Tollefson, and others too numerous to mention.

Frank Sedlacek was the Onion King?

Jeff Tollefson drove the first auto owned by a St. Ansgarite?

St. Ansgar was the Onion Center (or secenter) of the U.S.A.?

Oscar Gilbertson had acres of berries where the ball ground is? The whole town picked on shares.

St. Ansgar had three banks—Citizens, National and State. Those were the days people had money.

Every family had a cow or two and the youngsters of the town got jobs during the summer taking them to Mike Kirk's pasture or Sweet Pasture for the day's meals and bringing them home at evening. A circus parade every day with clowns and cracking whips.

Old man Tucker lived inside a picket fence and was to be avoided by children.

You could buy candy at Rennebohm's, Mortensen's, Pete Larson's, Blackstad's or O'Connor's.

Rudolph Helfritz had a Drug Store which was a drug store. No ice cream for sale there.

Doctor Westenberg made his sick calls in the country behind a spanking team of blacks hitched to a covered buggy.

There were two flour mills, one at St. Ansgar dam—McCarthy, and one at the Newburg dam—Holmes.

St. Ansgar young people put on home talent plays—Oscar Koch and Herman Falk being two of the leading actors.

St. Ansgar had a Chinese Laundry? Fong Shing.

Plug hats in various shapes and colors were numerous on our streets.

Horse shoeing was a profitable business for our two village blacksmiths, Just Thompson and O. K. Berg.

St. Ansgar used to celebrate the Fourth of July in Sweet's pasture with a parade on Main street that always had a bunch of rag-a-muffins to bring out the laughs. Catching the greased pig was the outstanding contest of the day. A bowery dance in the evening on a real bowery under the beautiful trees.

The Main Street of St. Ansgar was lighted by Kerosene lamps placed on tall posts. Each night they were lighted by the official lamp lighter of the town.

The sidewalks were of boards, some of them placed on frames to keep travelers out of the water.

The young people felt it was a real adventure to visit the caves on the banks of the Cedar river north of Utopia Springs.

People would visit the Specht farm to get a drink from the old oaken bucket which would be raised by a rope from the bottom of the deep well.

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